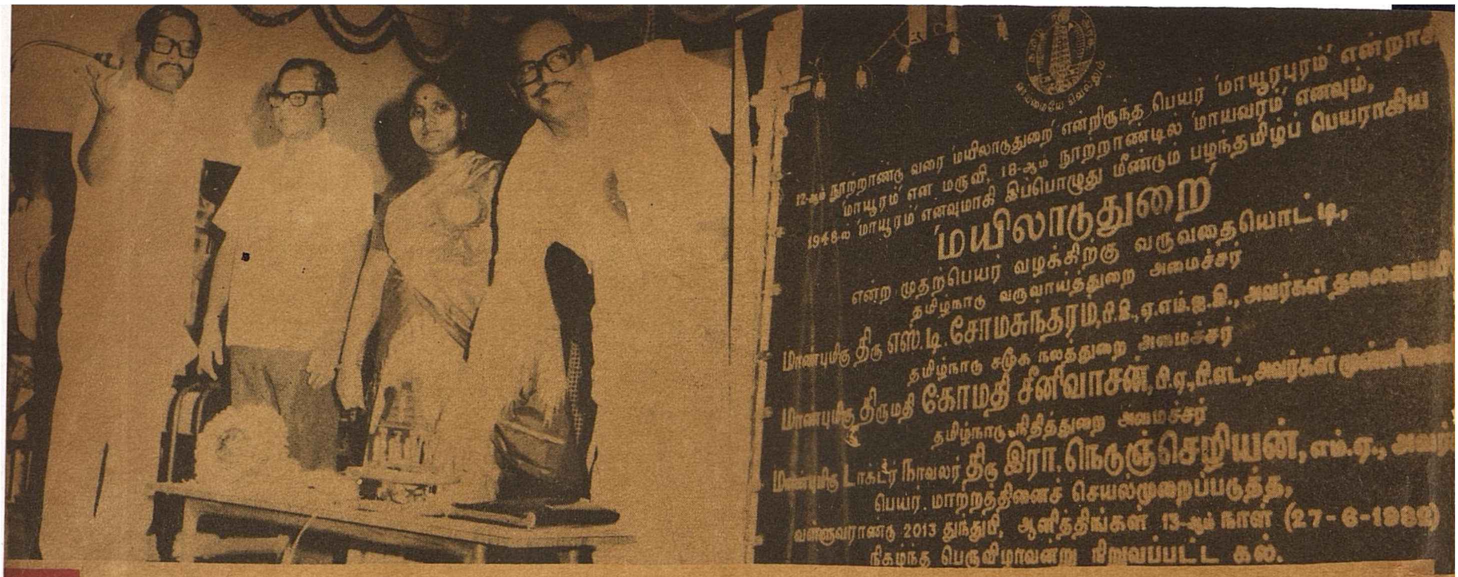
Tamil Arasu

August 1982 75 Ps.

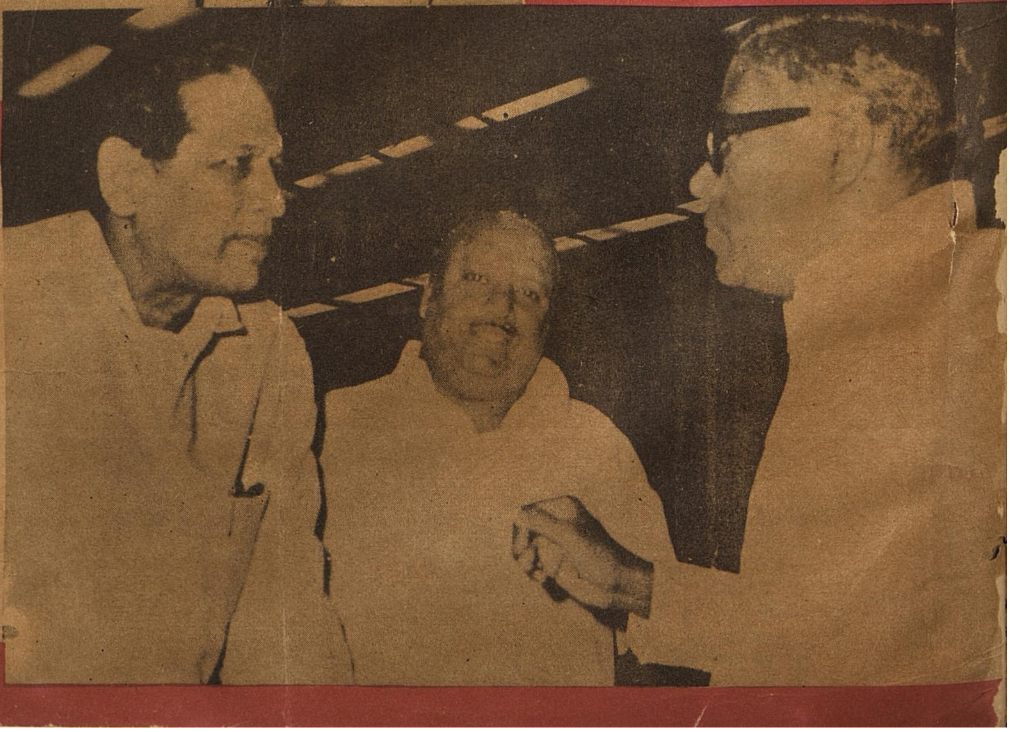
Thiruvalluvar Year - 2013

Adi-Aavani Dhundubi

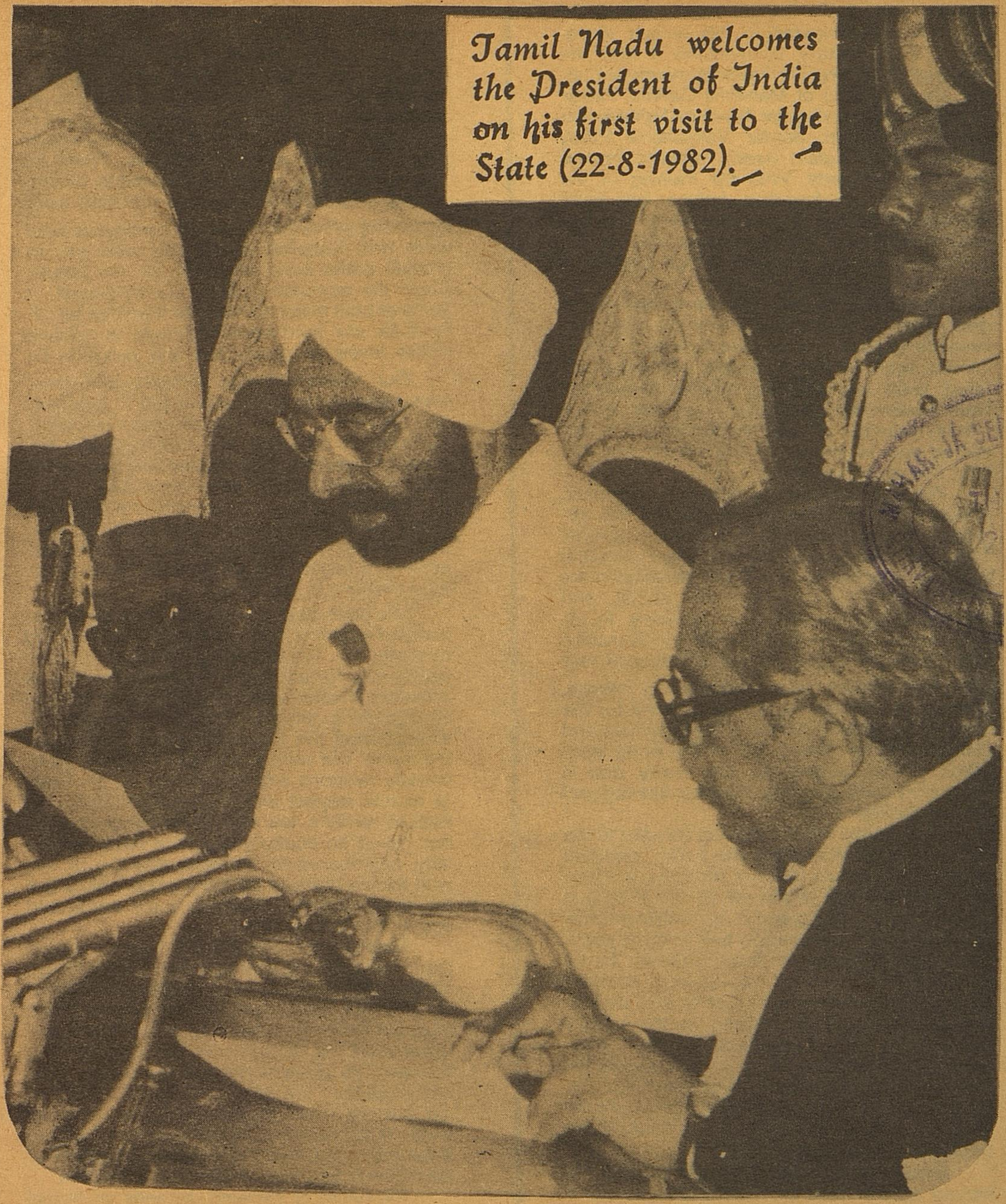


Dr. V. R. Nedunchezhian, Minister for Finance unveiled the memorial stone bearing the name of Mayiladuthurai in a function at Mayiladuthurai on 27.6.1982. Thirumathi Gomathi Srinivasan, Minister for Social Welfare presided over the function.

Thiru S. D. Somasundaram, Minister for Revenue has given away rice, clothes and money to the affected, due to the fire accident in Govindasamy Nagar, Raja Annamalaipuram on 30.6.'82.



Thiru R. M. Veerappan, Minister for Information and Religious Endowments met the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Thiru Vasant Sathe at the Conference of Information Ministers held at New Delhi on 3.7.'82.



Tamil Nadu welcomes the President of India on his first visit to the State (22-8-1982).

The Government And The People Must Work Together

President's Call to the Nation

The following is the text of the President, Mr. Zail Singh's Independence Day message to the nation.

"Tomorrow we celebrate the 35th anniversary of our Independence. It was on this day, 35 years ago, that India awoke to life and freedom. On this happy occasion, I greet you all my fellow citizens, at home and abroad, and extend to you my good wishes. It is my privilege to speak to you and share some of my thoughts with you.

On this day we remember with gratitude the great sacrifices made by our people during the freedom movement to achieve political

emancipation from foreign rule. I salute all those who participated in this unique movement in the history of mankind. I had the privilege of serving the freedom movement under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, Father of the Nation, and great freedom-fighters like Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Rajendra Prasad and other stalwarts. With the framing of the Constitution our founding fathers laid solid foundations of our democratic polity. This has been strengthened all these years and our democracy has now acquired a high degree of maturity.

Composite culture: We have inherited a great cultural tradition. Through the ages we have developed a composite culture to which various sections of our people professing different faiths and speaking different languages have made their contribution. Our nation is a shining example of unity in diversity. It is our sacred duty to strengthen the cultural ties that bind this nation together.

We are striving to achieve economic freedom through planning, guided by the objective of economic growth with social justice. The basic direction had been set for the nation by Jawaharlal Nehru, who firmly believed in the efficacy of planning for the social and economic development of our country. In recent years we have successfully launched many schemes for the benefit of the poor and the downtrodden with encouraging results. There is still a long way for us to travel for the removal of poverty, hunger, unemployment and disease and for raising further the living standards of our people, so that every one is assured of food, clothing, housing, literacy and medical facility.

As a nation, we are moving forward in the direction of strengthening the basic principles of socialism, secularism and democracy which are accepted and cherished by us. We have good reason to feel proud of our achievements, particularly in the preceding two to three years. The pace of progress has, however, to be quickened and all of us have to work shoulder to shoulder with a sense of unity and dedication. We have to fight against various impediments in the path of progress. This fight is not against any individual or group, but against the forces of communalism, casteism and regionalism. We can hope to achieve success only with the wholehearted cooperation of our people in this national effort.

Record food output: This year is being observed as the Year of Productivity. Industrial production has increased considerably in recent years assisted by better performance of the infrastructure. In 1981-82, the country achieved an industrial growth of more than eight per cent thanks to the combined efforts of workers, technicians and managers. On the food front, our agricultural base has become strong enough, due to the sustained efforts of our farmers, aided by agricultural scientists and administrators, to ensure increasing production 1981-82 recorded an all-time high foodgrains production.

I have no doubt that in this Year of Productivity we shall further improve on this performance, in industry as well as agriculture. India occupies a pride of place among technologically advanced countries in the world. Indian experts are working in almost all parts of the world. We are proud of the achievements of our scientists and technologists. These are very encouraging trends which need to be consolidated further and sustained with hard work. Increasing production through continuous hard work and discipline is the only sure way to provide better living standards for our people. Given the resource base at our command, in terms of both men and material, it will not be difficult for our hard-working people to achieve higher levels of production and productivity.

Our defence forces, officers and men, have been doing an excellent job in guarding our frontiers and maintaining constant vigilance. In particular our brave jawahs deserve the nation's appreciation for their keen sense of patriotism and devotion to duty.

Foreign policy: In internatioonal relations today, there are tensions and conflicts. Our Government, in pursuance of our traditional objectives of peace and goodwill, is trying to reduce tensions in the World.

We have steered clear of power blocs and pursued a path of non-alignment. I would like to reiterate my Government's resolve to work ceaselessly for achieving these objectives. It is a matter of satisfaction that India's initiative in strengthening the non-aligned movement has strengthened the forces of peace throughout the world. We want to maintain and strengthen friendly relations with all nations, on the basis of mutual respect and cooperation. India's efforts to herald a new international economic order based on equity and justice have particularly contributed to the strengthening of ties with the countries in the third world with whom we share common aspirations for social and economic development.

Testing time: The country faces a testing time. Although the economy has improved, we cannot afford to sit back. Higher production remains our basic need, for which every one must put forth his or her best effort. Public servants must be sensitive to the people's difficulties. The Government and the people must work together in a spirit of unity. The good of the country must be placed above sectarian ends. With such a sense of purpose, we can show the world that there is no challenge that the Indian nation cannot meet and overcome.

The future of mankind depends on mutual cooperation and goodwill among nations. Science and technology must be harnessed for the common benefit of mankind, rather than for purposes of destruction. Thus alone can mankind ensure its survival and progress.

This is the first occasion for me, after assuming office of the President of India, to speak to you, my fellow citizens, directly. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the affection showered and trust reposed in me and hope that you will continue to extend your generous cooperation. Jai Hind."

Tamil Arasu

AUGUST-1982

VOL : XIII NO: 11

Extend Co-operation for the establishment of a casteless egalitarian Society

C.M.'s Call on the Independence Day

Honourable Chief Minister, Thiru M. G. R. addressed through the Television and Radio on the Independence Day. He also addressed an Independence Day rally after unfurling the National Flag at the ramparts of Fort St. George. The following are excerpts in English from the speeches of the Chief Minister on the Independence Day.

To-day we celebrate the 36th Independence Day of our nation.

Arignar Anna once said while referring the Independence Day as the day intended for reviewing the achievements made during all these years after independence.

Our political freedom should lead us to achieve economic freedom and we should move forward in the right direction of strengthening the nation's basic foundations of democracy, secularism and socialism.

Mahatma Gandhi said that real India can be seen only in villages. Anguished at the sight of women folk trekking long distances to fetch a few pots of drinking water and children studying at places which are not fit to be called schools, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Government evolved the concept of self-sufficiency so as to provide the basic minimum needs within a short time span. Our aim is to bring villages into the mainstream of national life by hastening the creation of rural infrastructures. It was decided to implement the self-sufficiency scheme with effect from 1980-81. With the end of this financial year, the benefits of this integrated rural development programme will be enjoyed by every village in this state. This programme is being implemented at the cost of Rs. 225 Crores. By the end of this year (1981-82) nearly 30,000 kilo-metres link roads and 3,000 kilo-metres length of pathways to burial grounds meant for Adi-Dravidar habitations will be laid. Nearly 1,100 Maternity Centres, 450 rural dispensaries and 5,000 school buildings will be constructed by the end of this financial year. This self-sufficiency scheme is to be extended to the Townships and Municipalities from this year onwards.

Integrated rural development scheme and also the National rural employment scheme are the significant factors which are being implemented to generate additional gainful employment for the rural unemployed which in turn will lead to rapid growth of rural economy and rise in the income level of the rural poor. A sum of Rs. 60 Crores has been allotted this year for these schemes.

For improving the socio.-econo-

mic conditions of the Adi-Dravidars, this Government is implementing special component plan since 1980-81 with the goal of ameliaroting the pace of development of Adi-Dravidars. A package of—programmes are also made available to them so that their economic lot is improved. A separate Police Wing has been formed to find out untouchable offences and punish the offenders to eradicate the practise of untouchability. Special Courts are also functioning to try the cases of ill treatment to Adi-Dravidars.

Efforts have been taken to strengthen and expand promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative health care services in accordance with the aim of the Government to achieve the goal of 'Health for all by 2,000 A.D." set by the Alma Ata Declaration, to which India has been signatory. It has been decided to distribute tooth powder free of cost to rural children and within two months this tooth powder will be given to the children coming to feeding centres for noon nutritious meal.

Medical services through district, taluk and non-taluk hospitals and dispensaries are being extended and strengthened. The Government have been improving and expanding the medical care facilities to reach the rural poor.

For the first time the Government is launching a massive programme of preprimary education. The provision of pre-primary educational facilities will promote universal elementary education by making young children school minded and also free, school age girls to attend school. The new 20 point programme also lays special emphasis on spreading elementary education. For implementing the 16th feature of the 20 point programme the introduction of nutritious noon meal programme paves the way.

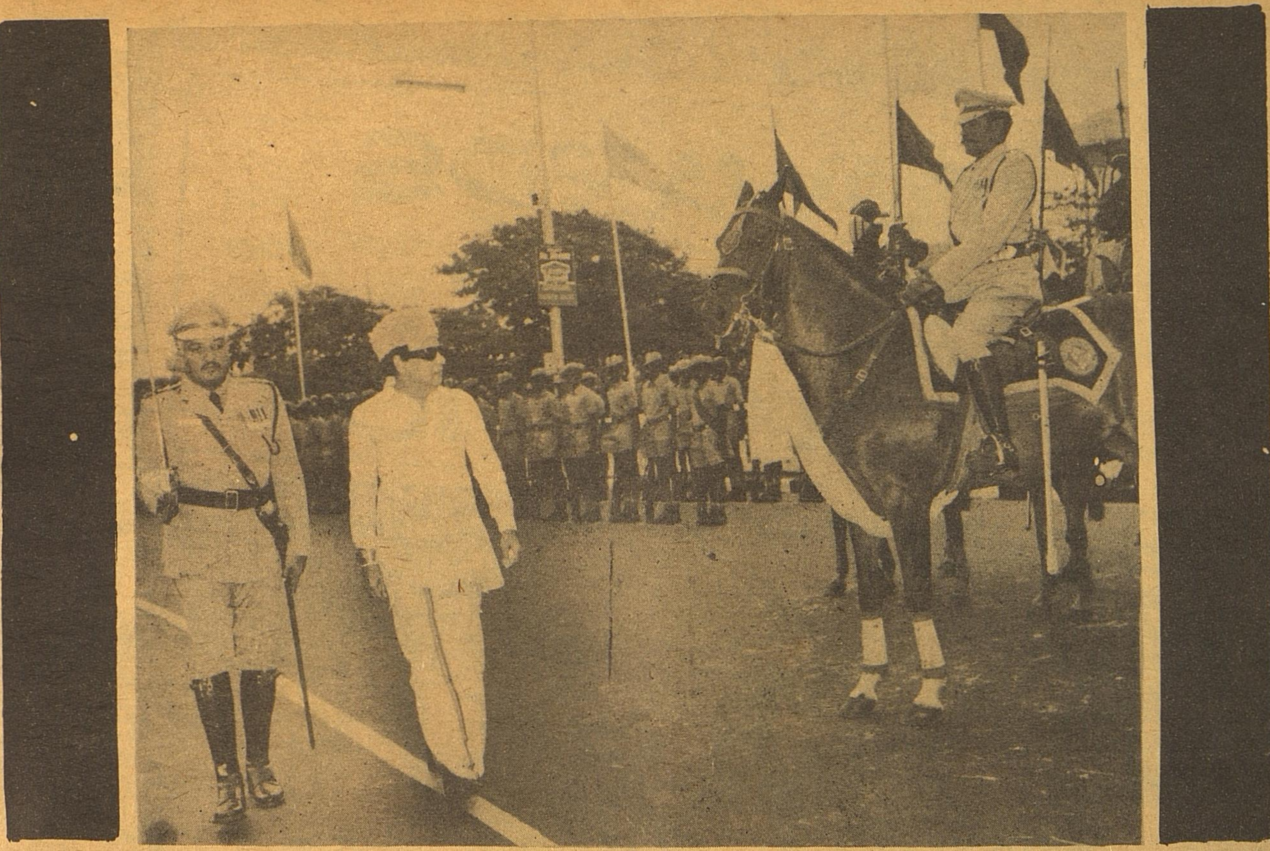
Likewise the Government is also keen in improving the lot of the agriculturists, handloom weavers, and to improve the economic condition of the poor and down trodden.

This Government is implementing Rs. 120 crore Nutritious Noon Meal Programme from 1st of July 1982 and I hope people will cooperate and lend their support to this project meant for redressing the sad plight of the poor children. Nearly 58 lakhs children are being

benefited by this scheme. Out of 58 lakhs, nearly 17 lakhs children belongto Adi-Dravidar Community. Employment has been provided to nearly 1 lakh women, particularly widows. This scheme provides an opportunity for children to eat, read and mingle without any distinction of caste, creed or religion.

I wish to stress the importance of duty consciousness coupled with hard work and vigilance against rumour-mongers and extremists. I want to express that whoever indulged in disrupting essential food supplies, preventing students from going to schools and halting the wheels of the industry is an impediment to the upliftment of the weaker sections of society.

Though the Government had promised to introduce the scheme to ensure at least one job to every family about two years ago, priority has to be given to the free meal scheme for children launched from 1st of July this year. I had the intention of implementing the free meal scheme even three or four years ago but repeated strikes and agitations were engaging the attention of the officials who were not in a



position to concentrate on welfare schemes.

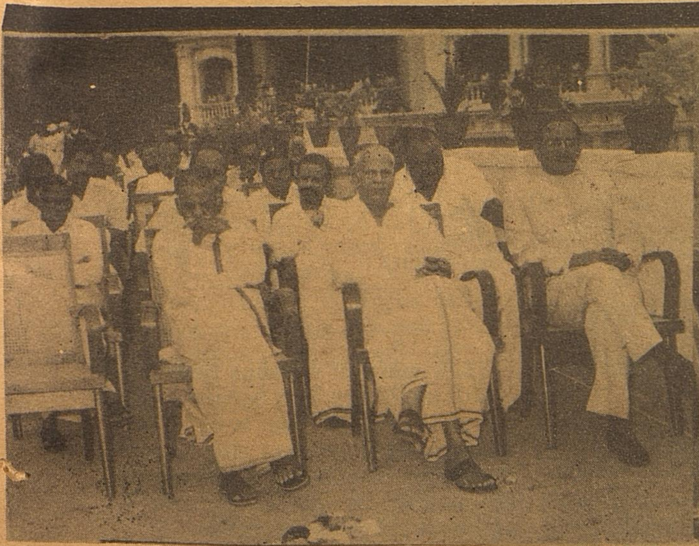
Now that the scheme has got off to a flying start and this will be extended to urban centres from 15th of September. I appeal to all political and religious leaders to extend their co-operation to the programme and ensure that its goal to spread the message of social equality is achieved. If some leaders start demanding separate centres of kitchens to feed children belonging to a particular caste or section, it will make a mockery of the whole scheme. I request them not to raise such demands.

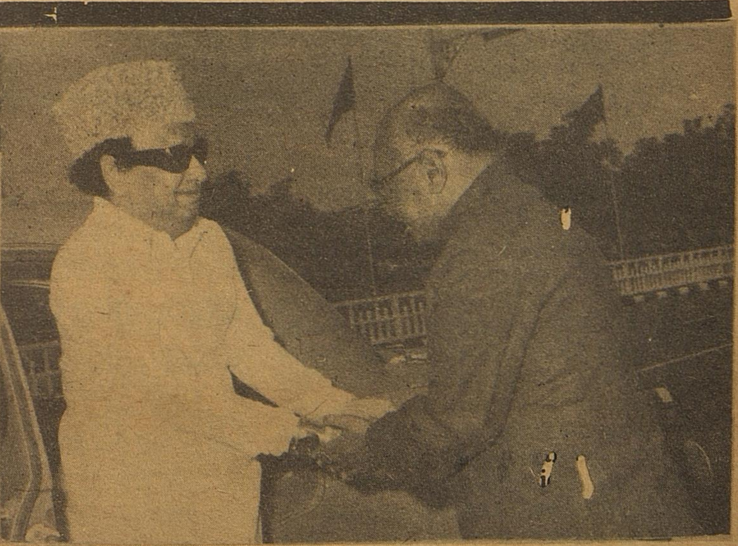
I have appealed to Prime Minister Tmt. Indira Gandhi to ensure her assurance that Hindi will not be imposed is carried out in letter and spirit by Television and All India Radio authorities. I appeal to the youth to refrain from agitations and to refuse to become victims of political machinations. It gives me great concern that there is still a need to call for communal harmony in our State and it is unfortunate that these distrubances are being described as 'Hindu-Harijan' clashes. Are not Harijans are also Hindus ?

I appeal to the people to be wary of those who discard the democratic ways of seeking redress and resort to violence. Rumours are the deadliest scourge of any nation and they will tend to create a scar in people and demoralise them.

I request the co-operation of one and all in the Government's effort to establish a casteless, egalitarian and socialist society.

A. M.





TOWARDS BETTER EDUCATION

EDUCATION INVESTMENT

An allocation of Rs. 291 crores has been made in the Education Demand for 1982-83. The allocation for 1975-76 was only Rs. 123 crores. In 1982-83 the allocation for School Education Department is Rs. 239 crores. There was a criticism previously that the education system was top heavy and bottom weak like an 'inverted pyramid' which implied that the expenditure on higher education was more than the expenditure on Primary Education. Now a sum of Rs. 132 crores has been allocated for primary Education alone.

ENROLMENT OF STUDENTS

Several schemes were implmented to enrol students and to reduce wastage. The following statistics will reveal the efforts taken.

Stage	*Percentage of pupils enrolled* 1975-76	1981-82
Primary	90	94.76
Middle	52	64.55
Secondary	32	41.36

12.07 lakhs of students have been additionally enrolled between 1975-76 and 1981-82. The number of teachers employed has also been increased corresponding to the increase in number of pupils enrolled as shown in the following table.:

Stage	Number of teachers	
	1975—76	1981—82
High/Higher Secondary	67,712	83,914
Middle	67,926	66,221
Primary	1,10,477	1,13,036
Total	2,46,115	2,63,171

(Since many of the middle schools were upgraded as high schools, there appears a decrease in the number of teachers in middle schools)

Extension of primary education to all school aged children is one of the vital points of the 20 Point Programme, .The All India VI Plan targets of enrolements at the end of VI plan (i.e., by 1984-85) are 95 per cent under age group 6-11 and 50 per cent under age group 11-14. It will be gratifying to note that in Tamil Nadu the enrolment percentage has already reached the said target in the case of age group 6-11 and far exceeded that target under age group 11-14.

For 1982-83 ,the following additional posts of teachers will be sanctioned, namely, 1,000 Secondary Grade Teachers; 150 Physical Education Teachers for Milddle Schools and High Schools; 500 Tamil Pandits for Middle Schools and Middle Schools standards of High Schools; 50 Headmasters for High Schools and 300 B.Ed. Grade teachers for High Schools. Further 100 posts of Part -time Craft Teachers in Middle Schools will be upgraded as full-time posts.

As on 1st October 1981 there were 36,896 schools in Tamil Nadu. Out of them 27,767 were primary Schools, 5,556 were Middle Schools and 3,573 were High Schools—including 1,405 Higher Secondary Schools. (The figure of 137 schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education, etc., —79 High Schools and 58 Higher Secondary Schools is also included in the total number of 36,896 schools)

SCHOOL DROPOUTS

The students who have been enrolled, drop out in the middle ,due socio-economic reasons. Several

schemes were implemented to reduce educational wastage. Detention has been abolished from the year 1977-78 in I to III Standards. The teachers handling I to III Standards are given inservice training to cope with new programme of non-detention. Because of all these efforts the drop out rate has been reduced from 42.29 % in 1975-76 in I-V Standards to 30.67% in 1981-82.

INCREASED INVOLVEMENT OF THE UNDERPRIVILEGED

There is appreciable increase in the number of SC and ST students' enrolment in schools. The percentage of students in the total number of students enrolled was 18% in 1975-76 and it has increased to 21% in 1981-82. Similarly the percentage of SC and ST teachers has increased from 9% to 13% during the period.

SPECIAL COACHING AND SUPERVISED STUDY FOR THE SC / ST STUDENTS

With a view to promote the education of AdiDravidar and Scheduled Tribe pupils, a scheme of special supervised study in the subject-English, Mathematics and Science for about 1½ hour every day after school hours was introduced for the benefit of students belonging to those communities in Standards 8, 9 and 10 of 500 selected high schools in 1981-82. About 37,600 students benefitted under this scheme this year. This innovative scheme is extended to 300 schools more in 1982-83.

INCENTIVES

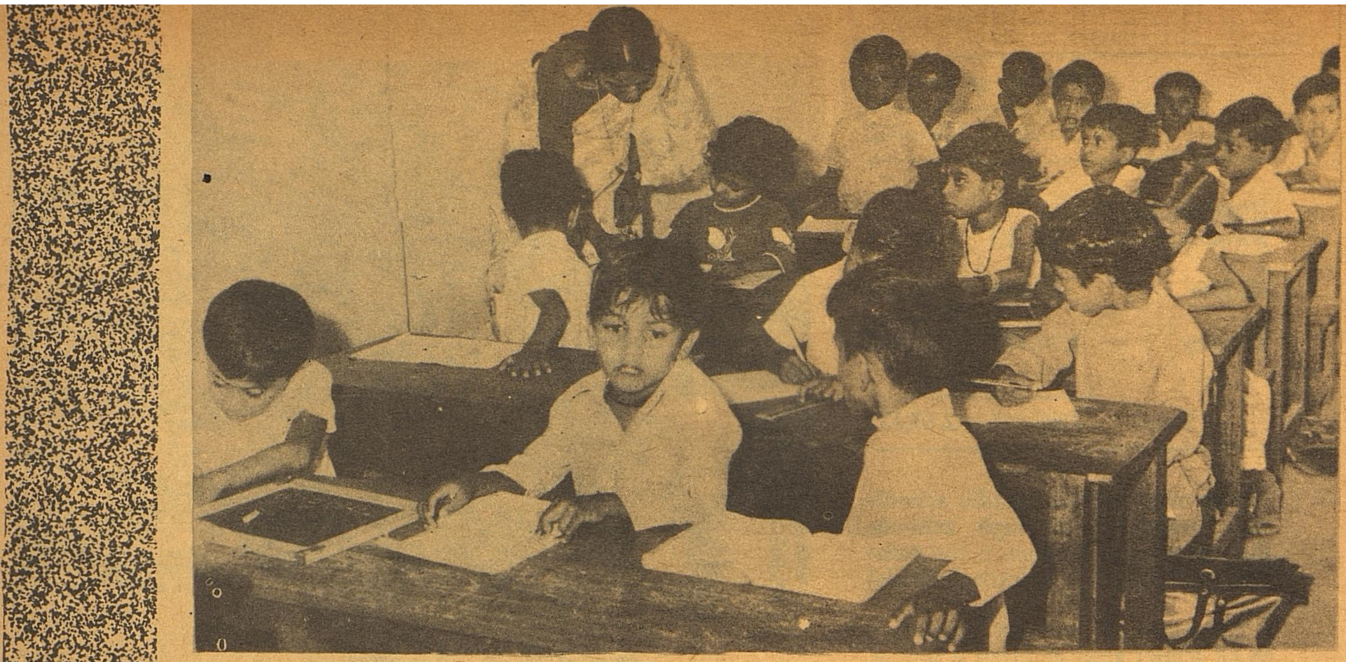
Several incentive schemes such as midday meals, free supply of school uniforms, slates and books, helped a great deal in reducing wastage and in improving enrolment. 12 lakhs of students were receiving free supply of slates and books and it has been increased to 13 lakhs in 1981-82.

MIDDAY MEALS

20.03 lakhs of children were fed in 28286 centres in 1975-76 at a cost of Rs. 458 lakhs. In 1981-82, 20.51 lakhs of children were fed in 30493 centres at a cost of Rs. 505 lakhs.

HON'BLE CHEIF MINISTER'S PROGRAMME TO FEED ALL POOR CHILDREN :

Studies have proved that lack of nutrition in the childhood will result in the deficiency of the intellect too. Therefore our Hon'ble Noble Chief Minister has introduced from the 1st July 1982, a vital programme to feed the poor children from the age 2+to 10 through out the year. According to this new scheme, children between the age 5+to9+ numbering around 38.15 lakhs will be provided with nutritious food throughout the year by the Department of School Education. The cost of one meal will be 50 paise per child



and total expenditure by the Department will be nearly Rs. 70 cores per year.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT CONFERENCES

The public contribution realised through the 50 School Improvement Conferences held in 1981-82 (till December 1981) was Rs. 63 lakhs. The number of pupils who were given free uniforms through voluntary effort during 1981-82 (till December 1981) was 49,378.

BOOK BANKS:

Book Banks in schools are intended to enable the weaker sections of students to save expenditure on school books. As on 1st October 1981 Book Banks had been established in 32,630 schools. The stock of books in all these banks was more than 22 lakhs and the value was more than Rs. 32 lakhs. The beneficiaries numbered more than 10 lakhs of pupils. These book banks were established on voluntary basis, by collecting books donated by students promoted to higher standards and by enlisting the co-operation of parents, social service organisations etc.

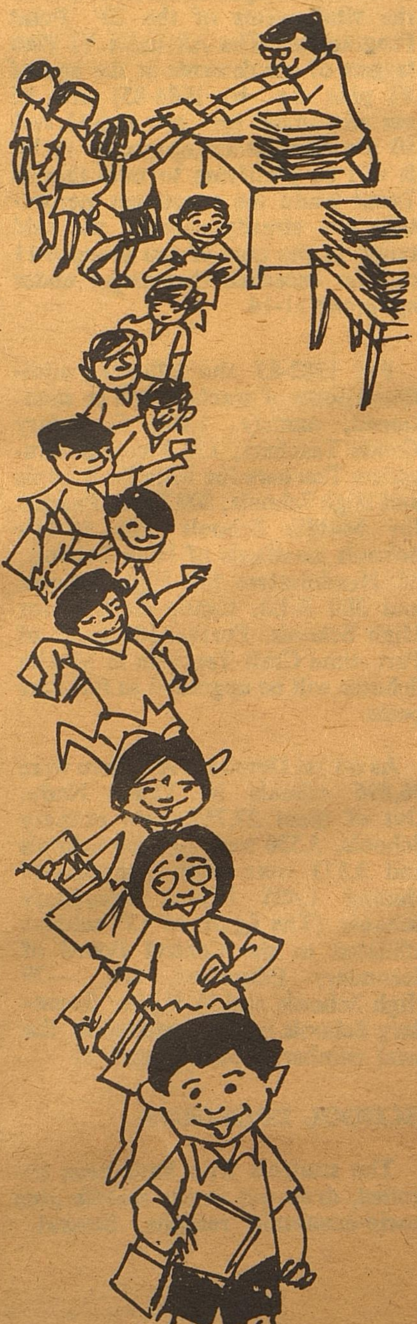
NEW ACHIEVEMENTS

ABSORPTION OF PANCHAYAT UNION TEACHERS AS GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

The Panchayat Union Elementary School teachers and the basic servants working in those schools have been absorbed as Government Servants from 1-6-1981. The administrative control of Panchayat Union Schools, except that relating to the maintenance of school building was transferred to the school Education Department. The Department is administering these schools through an Assistant Educational Officer in each of the 366 Panchayat Unions. One Junior Assistant and one Typist have been sanctioned for the Office of each Assistant Educational Officer. To cope with the additional work, one Assistant and 1 Typist were also sanctioned for the Office of each District Educational Officer. An Additional Director of School Education was also sanctioned for attending to Elementry Education. The implementation of the epoch making decision to make Panchayat Union teachers as Government servants is a major step towards qualitative improvement as well as expansion of Elementary Education.

PRE-PRIMARY EDUCATION

For the first time the Government of Tamil Nadu will be launching a massive programme of pre-Primary Education in 1982-83. The provision of pre-primary educational facilities will promote universal elementary education by making young children school-minded and also free school-age girls from the work of taking care of their siblings and enable them to attend school. The new 20 Point Programme also lays special emphasis on spreading universal elementary education among girls. In the first phase, to be taken up in 1982-83, a nursery section will be established in each of the 4,433 child welfare centres (Balwadis) in the State. A committee has been constituted in November 1981 for framing syllabus for the nursery



sections. The provision for this scheme in Budget Estimates 1982-83 is Rs. 1 Crore.

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE FOR HIGHER GRADE TEACHER

The scheme of 'Correspondence-cum-contact course' of 5 months duration to enable Higher Grade Teachers to acquire Secondary Grade qualification and get Secondary Grade scale is being implemented through the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) .The coverage under this Programme will be stepped up from 5,000 teachers to 10,000 teachers every year from 1982-83.

UNICEF PROJECTS

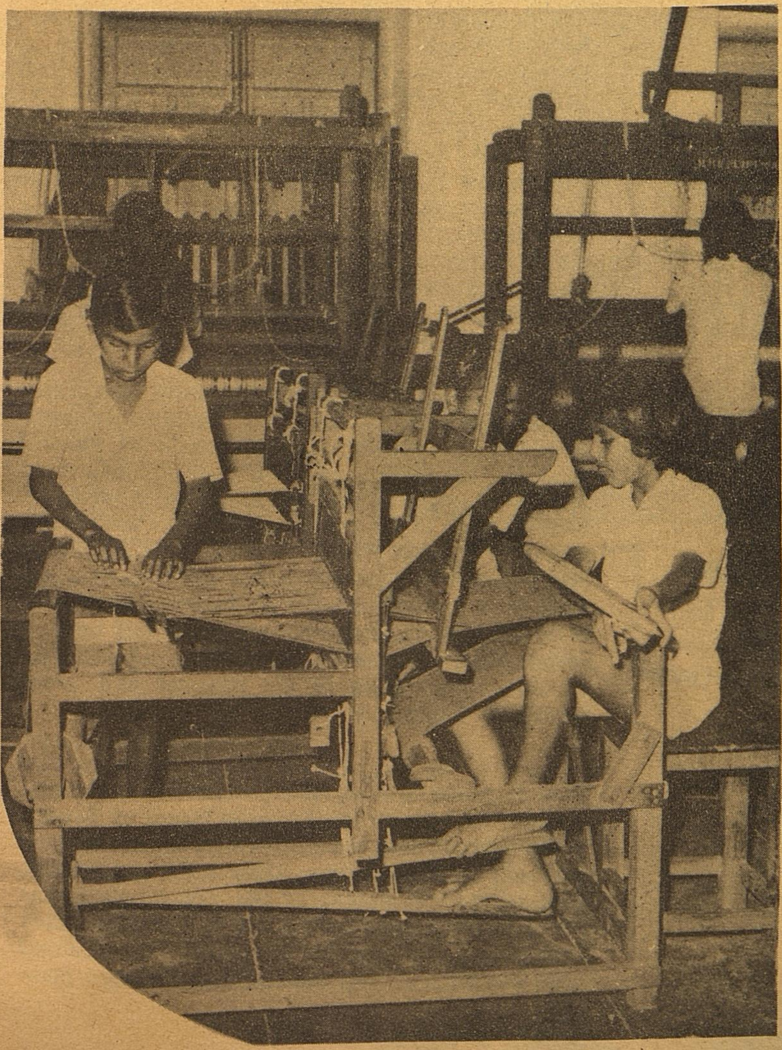
The following special experimental projects in the field of primary education are being implemented by the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) with UNICEF assistance:

(1) Primary Education Curriculum Renewal (PECR),

(2) Developmental Activities in Community Education and Participation (DACEP),

(3) Comprehensive Access to Primary Education (CAPE).

The implementation of the above programmes in Tamil Nadu has been commended by National Council of Educational Research and Training (NECERT) as the best in India.



POPULATION EDUCATION

Government have sanctioned the implementation in schools in Tamil Nadu of a State Population Education Programme for a period of three years from April 1980 to March 1982 with financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 25 lakhs from the United National Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)

EXAMINATION REFORM

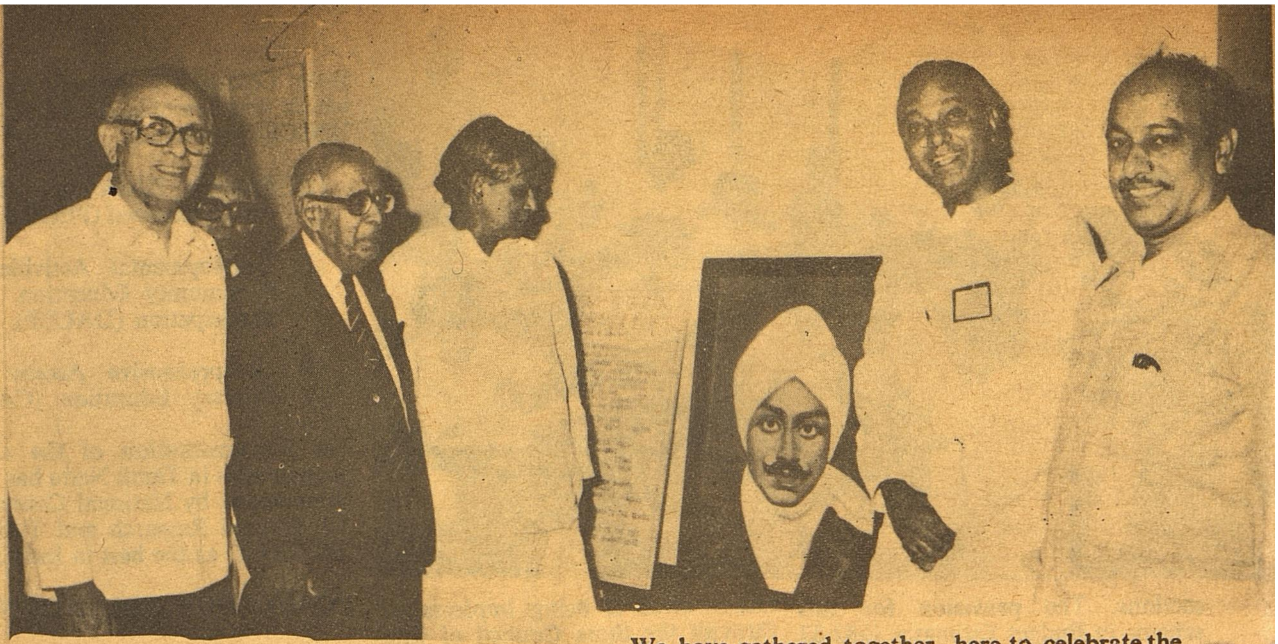
The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) is engaging itself also in examination reforms ,and also running continuing Education Centres for the benefit of teachers at Madras and a few other centres.

OPEN SCHOOL

With a view to extend Non-formal Educational facilities at secondary level, a Committee has been constituted to formulate an Open School system at secondary level. Working adults and housewives who have completed 8th Standard can continue their studies at secondary level through the open School.

EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

The Department of School Education has been endeavouring to provide better education for children by introducing new schemes for improving school facilities and the welfare of the teachers and students. Further, Tamil Nadu will maintain its pioneering status in education and will provide better education for the development and socio-economic uplift of the people. The vision of Perarignar Anna will be kept in view implementing educational programmes.



INTERNATIONAL TRIBUTE TO SUBRAMANIA BHARATI

Thiru M. Hidayatullah,
Vice-President
of India

We have gathered together here to celebrate the Centenary of the birth of Subramania Bharati, a renowned poet of our country. He was born in 1882. Bharati died very young. He was only thirty-nine years old at his death. Yet in that short time, like Keats and Chatterton, he made a name which will live for ever. Bharati sang the songs of freedom and Nationalism and created the right spirit for the freedom movement in the Tamil language as did Hasrat Mohani in Urudu. As we know, freedom movement derived its greatest force from the time of the Sessionof the IndianNational Congress held at Nagpur in 1921. With his profiency in Tamil, Sanskrit, Hindi and English, he reflected in his poetry the best from these languages. He was particularly influenced by the *Vedas*., the *Gita* and the *Upanishads*. He was a *neo-vedantist*. In politics he followed the uncompromising attitude of Lal, Bal and Pal. The vitality of his national and patriotic poems reflects the philosophy of these three patriots, who before the Mahatma and Pandit Nehru, dominated the Indian political scene. The Mahatma and others in later years carried on an unceasing war against Britain and finally got us our freedom.

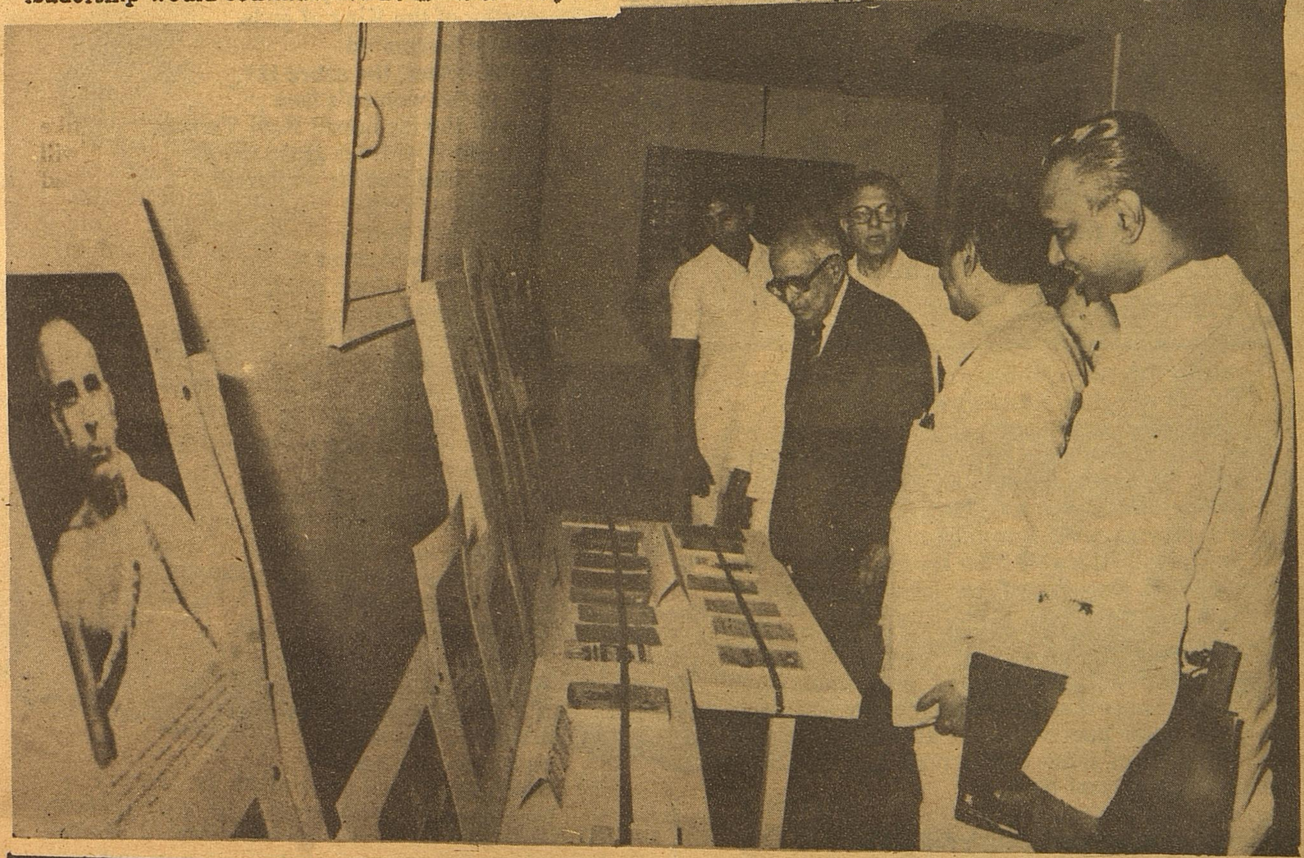
I am sorry that I cannot comment with authority on Bharati's Tamil poetry. Fortunately translations are available and like the *Kural* which I read in the translation in French by Monsieur Jaganou Diagou of Pondicherry, I have been able to read some of his poetry. I have procured translations in English prepared by the All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation and a few more which have been included in Dr. S. Ramakrishnan's excellent book *Bharati* published early this year to commemorate a short biographical sketch and his own appreciation of the poetical and prose works of Bharati.

From the biographical sketch we learn that Bharati threw himself into the Freedom Struggle and as a member of the Editorial Board of *Swedesmitran*, wrote fiery articles, which sometime were withheld by Subramanya Aiyar from publication. Sensing the importance of the press as a means for organising the Tamilians, a new weekly called India was started and Bharati was the man behind it. It was immediately successful and bieng a revo-

lutionary paper it was even printed on red paper. Dr. Ramakrishnan's book contains some of the cartoons that appeared in the Weekly. Bharati was soon involved deeply with the Indian National Congress. He knew Nivedita to whom he dedicated his anthology of patriotic poems in 1908. His dedication is full of feeling and his poetic homage to her read:

Oblation to Grace, Fane of Love
Sun that dissipates the darkenss of my mind,
Friend in need to my land like timely rains to crops,
Wisdom to the indigent groping in the dark,
Fire that bruns the coil of vile slavery
Mother Nivedita, I worship thee.

By 1908 Bharati was deep in the Freedom Struggle with Tilak and others. Tilak was sent to Mandalay for six years and others also went to jail in India. Bharati was asked to escape so that leadership would continue and he made his way to



Thiru M. Hidayatullah, Vice-President of India visiting the Photo and Books exhibition on Bharathi at New Delhi.

Pondicherry where the Weekly *India* was transported and continued its publication for seventeen months before finally closing down. He was then consorting with Shri Aurobindo and V.V.S. Aiyar.

Professor Mahadevan in Bharati wrote of this association thus:

"Sri Aurobindo came with a reputation for fiery patriotism, poliglot scholarship and an intellect which was both massive and subtle. V.V.S. Aiyar was as great a scholar as Aurobindo ,but in the slightly circum-scribed field of three litreatures as against Aurobindo's six or seven ranging from ancient Greece to modern languages of Europe, Bharati stood

Thiru M. Hidayatullah, Vice-President of India visiting the Photo and Books exhibition on Bharathi at New Delhi.

midway between them-with an equally facile gift of tongues and poetic sensibilities of universal validity and appeal. Eye-witnesses of their almost daily meetings have left hyperbolic but vague accounts of their scientillating conversations as veritable 'feasts of reason and flow of soul.' But unhappily there was no percipient Boswell byto record them on the spot and reproduce them later for the benefit of posterity."

The poetical works of Bharati continued appearing. In 1912 he translated the *Gita* in Tamil and wrote a long excursus explaining the teachings. His three major poetical works also appeared that year. Portions of these I have read in translations which enrich several books.

Bharati's writings in English are great.

His *Mantras* on the plane of "Will' begins thus
"Where there is a will, there is a way!
But, Oh, Heavens! Where is the way to get a Will?
Instinct replies, "In thyself"
Yes in myself, in myself, in myself,
I will that I develop as powerful will.
I have willed it.

The poem goes on repeating ,"I will "but in conjunction with a will to be strong, to work for power and greatness for Glory and for annihilation of man's misery. The *Mantra* is I will work, work, work, and toil shall be strength, pleasure, my way and my weapon, my scripture and my code, till success comes. There are many poems on Truth, Peace, Courage and Toil which breathe the same spirit of determination, Bharati also wrote in prose on Indian culture, on Love and Marriage and Rights and Duties. Each is a piece of great merit not only in thought but also in diction.

I do not quote the poems so well collected and arranged by All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation. They are already in your hands. They breathe Liberty, Patriotism and Revolution. Bharati was also a lover of art and literature. His poem in honour of Raja Ravi Varma, the pioneer in Indian Art from Kerala ,on the occasion of his death is a poem of such high merit that I cannot do better than read it to you.

God made the moonlight
and the chataka bird to drink it,
He made Ambirosia
and gods to partake of it,
He made the white pachyderm
worthy of the King of gods.
Beauty he created
in the flower, the azure sky,
and in the women's face
so that the far-famed Ravi Varma
can take it with his great vision,
his fancides and his wisdom.
The master's light
the peerless light
has lit the palaces of Kings
and the huts of the poor,
it brought delight
the paintings.
And now to earthly glory
he has bade adieu
And to heaven risen
Thou, who hast so often painted
the celestial nymphs.
Rambha, Urvashi and all the rest!

Has thou to heaven gone
to compare thy handiwork
direct with the originals?
But ill will these deamsels
compare with your creations!
Alas! in the grand march of Time,
if authors of deathless works
are to die one day,
an illusion for sure
Past works,
Past describing.

I can only end by saying that his poetry is 'Past words, and 'past' describing' also.

[Address by Thiru M. Hidayatullah, Vice-President of India at the International tribute to Subramania Bharati sponsored by the National Preparatory Committee for Subramania Bharati Centenary Celebrations and the World Peace Council at New Delhi on April 24, 1982.]

Prawn farming in Tamilnadu

Prawns of high unit value and other fish varieties like chanos, mullet and *Lates* can be reared in brackishwater in areas adjoining the coastline in our efforts to increase fish production, earn foreign exchange by exporting varieties in demand in foreign countries, utilise areas which are at present fallow, provide profitable employment to fishermen etc. Prawns especially which are an important item of export in marine products are caught from the sea at present. It cannot be stated that natural resource is unlimited and already signs of over exploitation are seen. By bringing in vast areas of low lying lands, mangrove swamps, backwaters, marshy areas, brackishwater lagoons and lakes adjoining the coastal area, under culture for prawn, increased availability of prawns for export is possible thus supplementing in a large measure the present foreign exchange earnings with the prawns from sea. Polyculture of prawns with mullet or chanos is also possible which will result in increased fish production for local consumption. Tamilnadu has 56,000 hectares of brackishwater areas and it has been roughly estimated that 16,000 hectares (mostly in Tanjore, Chingleput and Ramnad Districts) are suitable for brackishwater fish culture.

During the last couple of years considerable interest has been aroused in prawn culture programmes and the Department of Fisheries of Tamilnadu had already initiated research and pilot scale experiments on the biology of the prawns, their distribution, feeding, and breeding habits etc. At Santhome, a Coordinated ICAR research programme is under implementation for the past seven years and valuable information and data have been collected. It has been established that a production of about 1,000 kg. per hectare per annum of prawn can be achieved through systematic scientific farming.

In the Sixth Plan, the Tamil Nadu Government have provided Rs. 80 lakhs for establishment of 10 model farms by the department in the coastal districts and for assisting the cooperative sector to take to culture of prawns and 250 hectares of area for brackishwater culture is targetted during this period.

To establish a prawn farm of 1 hectare in extent which will include a nursery, about Rs. 75,000 will be required as capital investment. Prawn seeds from natural resources (estuaries, backwater, creeks and the like are places where the young ones can be collected) have to be stocked at 20,000 to 30,000 per hectare depending on the variety whether black or white respectively and reared over a period of 110 to 120 days where after they can be harvested and marketed. During the period of rearing supplemental feeding with a mixture of groundnut oil cake, fish meal, rice bran, clam meat, or trash fish and fish wastes should be done. Water level in the rearing ponds has to be maintained at 90 cm. to 100 cm. and flushing of the pond to the extent of 15% with fresh sea or brackishwater should be done every day. By adopting such cultural practices and water management, two crops can be harvested in an year yielding 1000 kg. of prawns per hectare valued at Rs. 30,000.

After off setting for input costs, depreciation and interest on capital, a net profit of Rs. 5,000 per hectare per year can be expected.

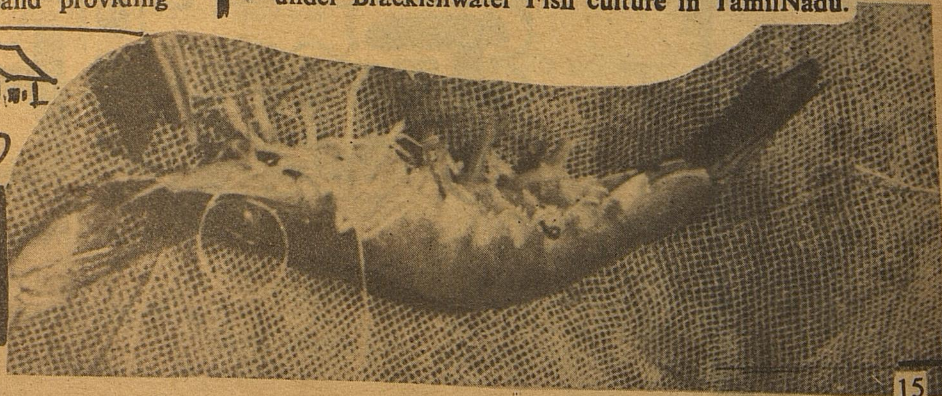
The department has given wide publicity to this scheme and imparted training to about 650 young fishermen so far. More than 20 private persons mostly in the Tanjore District had taken to prawn farming in their own lands during 1979 with varied results but intensive and purposeful efforts are required to place this prawn cultural activity on a firmer footing. The department has just established 4 demonstration model farms in Chingleput, Tanjore and Pudukkottai districts each one being 1 to 1.5 ha. in extent and six more such farms are nearing completion in the other coastal districts.

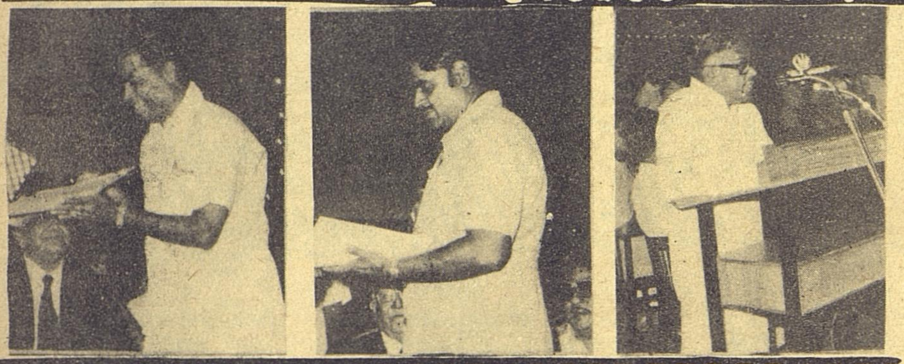
Two cooperative societies one at Adiramapattinam (Tanjore) and another at Karangadu (Ramnad Dist.) have been organised solely for prawn farming in the Cooperative sector and work on the Adirampattinam is already under way.

When the proposal becomes fully operational after three years, an increased prawn production of 300 tonnes of prawns per year of exportable quality valued at Rs. 90 lakhs and providing direct employment for 300 families and for 200 persons for part time work will result.

The FAO/BOBP has also a programme to set up a pilot pen culture project for prawn farming at Killai (S. Arcot) during '82-'83 at an estimated cost of Rs. 8 lakhs. This is an experimental one enclosing about 3 hectares of backwaters at Killai to grow prawns in the pen which stimulates near natural conditions. If the experiment proves viable, the pen culture of prawns will be extended to other areas to the benefit of fishermen living near such backwaters.

In due course most of suitable coastal areas can be brought under backwater fish culture, the people living adjoining these places can be given areas of about 5 hectare on long lease and the infrastructural common facilities can be provided by the Government Technical guidance and supply of seeds to the prawn farmers will be the responsibility of the State Department.—In the initial stages of the developmental programme, the farmers can be given incentives towards input costs for feeding the prawn, fuel for pumping water, fishing equipments etc. In another decade, atleast 1000 Ha. of coastal area can be brought under Brackishwater Fish culture in TamilNadu.



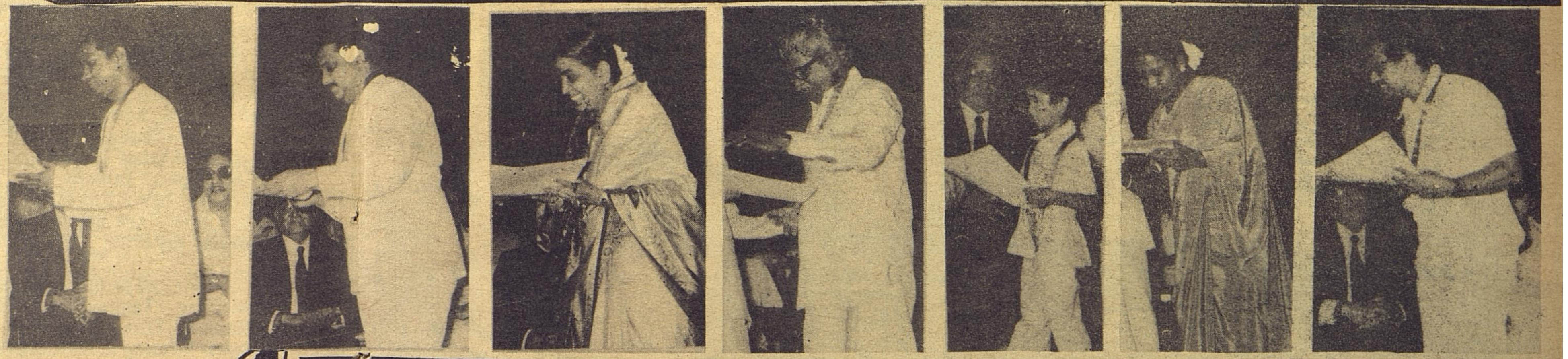


State Film Award Function

On the 36th Independence Day evening, Kalaivanar Arangam, Madras witnessed the presentation of the Tamil Nadu Government's awards and subsidies to the best films and artistes for the year 1980-81 by the Honourable Chief Minister Thiru M.G.R.

His Excellency the Governor of Tamil Nadu, Thiru Sadiq Ali, presided.

Honourable Minister for Information and Religious Endowments, Thiru R.M. Veerappan delivered welcome address.



The former Chief Justice Thiru. T. Ramaprasad Rao, Justice Thiru. S. Swamikannu, President of South Indian Film Artistes' Association, Thiru. S.S.Rajendran, Thiru.D.Ramanujam, Thiru. K. Venkatraman, Thiru. Valampuri Somanathan and Thiru. Vitaldas Jaganadadas felicitated the award winners.

Thiru. S.T. Kasirajan, Director of Information and Public Relations proposed vote of thanks.

The following five feature films were awarded subsidy of Rupees one lakh each:

1. Suravali.
2. Vadaimalai
3. Meendum Kokila
4. Thunaivi.
5. Kaalam Thappiya Payir.

First prize of Rs. 50,000 cash awarded to the feature film 'Varumaiyin Niram Sivappu'. The second prize of Rs. 30,000 awarded to 'Nenjathai Killathe'.

Third prize of Rs. 20,000 awarded to 'Vandichakkaram'.

Special award of Rs. 25,000 was given to 'Oru Kai Osai'.

The following artistes were awarded gold medals:

Best Actor—Thiru. Kamalahasan

Best actress—Selvi. Suhasini

Special prize-Actor—
Thiru. K. Bhakiaraj

Special prize-Actress—
Thirumathi Sujatha

Best Director—Thiru.K.Balachandar

Best story writer—Thiru. M.A.Appas

Best Dialogue writer—
Thiru. Valampuri Somanathan

Best Music Director—
Thiru. Illaiya Raja

Best Playback singer:
(Male)
Thiru. S.P.Balasubramaniam

Best playback singer:
(Female) Thirumathi. P.Susila

Best Lyrist—Thiru. Pulamaipithan

Best Cameraman—Thiru.
Ashokumar

Best comedy actor—
Late Thiru. Surilirajan

Best comedy actress—
Thirumathi. Manorama

Best Film Editing—Thiru. R. Vittal.

Raja Sandow Memorial Award—
Thiru.P.Neelakandan

Thiru. K.Bhakiaraj donated Rs. 25,000 to the Honourable Chief Minister in aid of the Nutritious Noon Meal Programme. Many others also donated for the implementation of the scheme.

DECENTRALISATION OF FORESTRY OPERATIONS ESSENTIAL

Thiru R. M. Veerappan,
Minister for Information and
Religious Endowments.

Mr. Chairman and Distinguished Members of the Board,

It gives me great pleasure to participate in this meeting dealing with vital issues concerning forestry in the country. At a time, when the dynamics of forest management have shifted away from the passivity of policing over forests to positive action of active development, and even creation of forest wealth, it is only appropriate that our focus on the objectives should be sharpened and the correct direction of our march towards them identified. It is in this context that I would like to share with you the views of our Government on certain important matters coming up before this Board to-day.

We are meeting at a time, when, various sections of people have been reacting with mixed feeling, to the proposed comprehensive Central legislation of Forests. The stage for such legislation has been set with the inclusion of the Forest and Wild Life in the Concurrent List of the Constitution of India in 1976 and the enactment of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 by the Government of India. A clear view on the mechanism to be adopted for formulation and implementation of legislation of Forestry with regard to the inclusion of the

subject in the concurrent List has not yet emerged. The lever of concurrent entry would appropriately have to be operated for bringing about a measure of uniformity in the administration of matters which have inter-State implications, or, lie in the sphere of common interest of more than one State. It is the firm view of our Government that the entry of a subject in the Concurrent List of the Constitution of India should not lead to distortion by divesting the State Governments of their functions and centralising of powers and authority in the Government of India. For instance, Tamil Nadu has stringent laws with regard to the possession and transport of sandalwood, and certain other scheduled timber but in the absence of similar or comparable legislative framework in other States, administration of our own Act and Rules becomes sub-optimal. It is in such areas that the Central Government could usefully have resort to its powers to bring about a measure of uniformity in the laws of a State in a particular region.

I further wish to add that forest administration of Tamil Nadu is under well established and delineated statutory framework which is now a century old. The Tamil Nadu Forest Act of 1982 precedes the Central Forest Act of 1927 and has, by and large, withstood the test of time.

Our Government are fully aware of the fact that forests are the sheet-anchor of the eco-system and play a vital role in environmental conservation. Tamilnadu, after the reorganisation of States, was left with only about 22 lakhs hectares of forest

area, which works out to less than 17·/. of the total land area. No effort has been spared by our Government to increase the area under forests as also to bring about their qualitative improvement. Felling of natural forests for fuel, prescribed under working Plans have been progressively reduced from 7,034 hectares in 1964-65 to 527 hectares in 1981-82. Supply of fuel to the public is now mainly from plantations raised outside the Reserved Forests. Proposals for diversion of forests for non-forestry purposes is subjected to close and rigorous scrunity before a recommendation is made to the Central Government. Further, a high level committee has been set up to go into the individual hydel and irrigation project proposals. With a view to ensure that even Private forests are not indiscriminately felled, on one pretext or other, the Government have formulated very strict procedures on technical lines. As a result, the Government have been facing as many as 12 Writ Petitions in Courts. Unfortunately, however, the focus of the Government of India seems to be shifted to the centralisation of authority in the hands of the Union Ministry of Agriculture which not only erodes the powers and functions of States, but also makes the Forest Administration complex and removed from realities of field situations which could be best appreciated only at the State level.

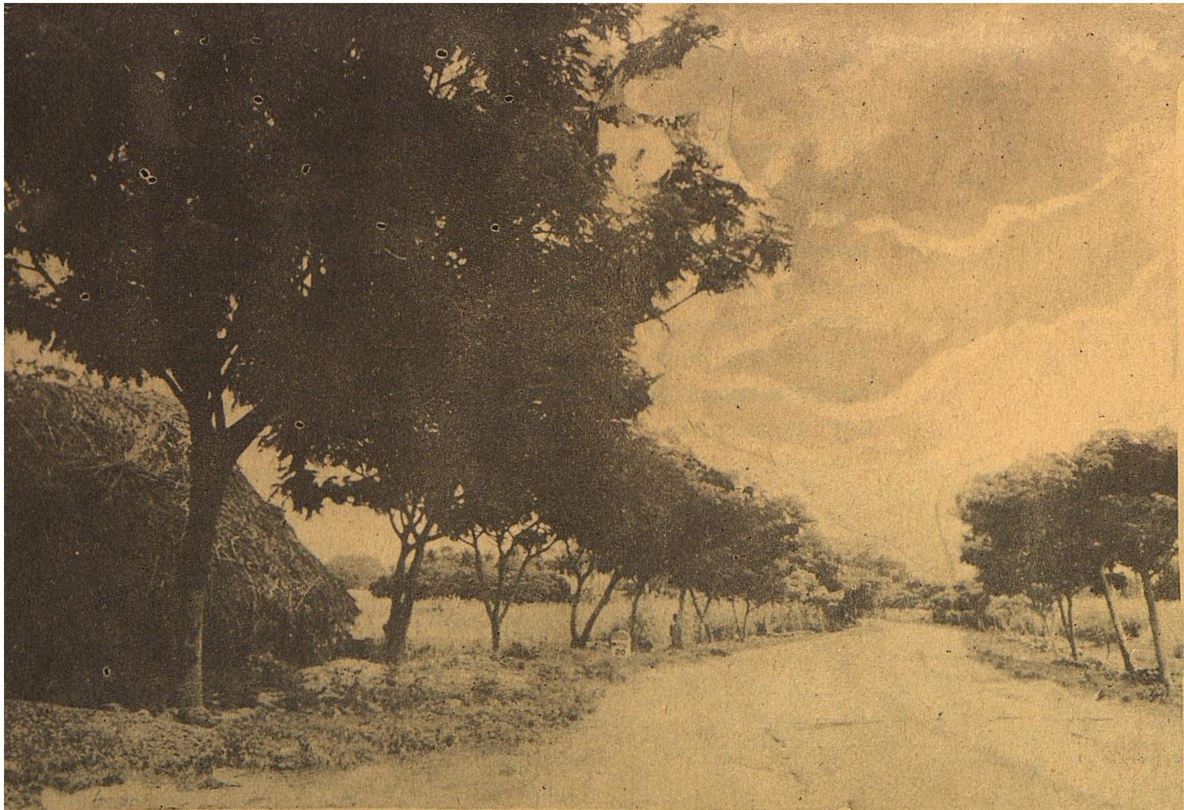
As the State Governments are the first to feel the pinch of adverse seasonal conditions caused by the disturbance of balance of ecology, they are most concerned with the conservation of forestry resources. It is therefore, necessary that the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has to be implemented in such a way as not to impinge on the powers and functions of State Governments.

I also have some comments to make on the Forest Conservation Act of 1980. While I welcome the Act as a step in the right direction to prevent dis-reservation and diversion of forest lands, I feel, it is not just to deprive the State Governments of their basic right and exercise of their discretion in matters relating to the developmental activities of the State

under various schemes and projects aimed at the improvement of the economic and social conditions of the tribals. The State has constantly to look towards the promotion of the well being of the tribals and other weaker sections of the society living in the forest areas. At this stage, when we are fast nearing the turn of the 20th Centrury ,no one will accept the position that these people should be condemned to the life of deprivation in isolated tracts. Their economic upliftment could be secured only by opening up communications with the growth centres and taking to them the necessary facilities. The implementation of the Central Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 totally disregards these imperatives and makes it obligatory for every proposal, irrespective of its dimensions or urgency, to go to the Committee set up in the Government of India. Even the installation of a lamp post or the formation of a small link-road or putting up of a small primary health centre for the tribals in the forest area

has to go to the Government of India. This state of affairs will only negate the very purpose of forest conservation, as by disabling the State Governments, which are directly responsible for administering schemes to promote the welfare of tribals and other weaker sections of the Society, from taking prompt, and timely action to provide them the necessary facilities, a sense of antipathy and even hostility to forest conservation measures will be instilled in the tribals. In this context, I would like to refer to the communication from the Inspector General of Forests in the Ministry of Agriculture to the Forest Secretaries of State Governments containing a threat that disciplinary proceedings would be taken against the State Government officers for deriliction of duty if they passed any order involving disreservation or transfer of forest lands against the provisions of the Act. I wish to state with all emphasis at our command that such an open threat to the civil servants in the State carrying out their duties under the orders of the State Government is unfortunate and not acceptable to any State Government. A direction of this nature is actually designed to cause rift between the State Government and their civil servants, because, the civil servants carrying out the orders of the State Government are sought to be penalised for their action on the basis of interpretation by the Government of India. I urge that this direct threat should be rescinded forthwith.

The grim situation with regard to fuelwood availability in the country has been vividly brought out in the report of the Committee headed by Dr. M. S. Swaminathan. Unless the supply of fuelwood is substantially stepped up and a vast resources base for the purpose created, it would be futile to think of effective protection of forests as the poor people in the rural areas will perforce look towards the forest areas for meeting their fuelwood requirements. With the limited scope for expanding the fuelwood plantations within the reserve forests and other Government lands, it is high time we look towards private farms to bridge the gap



between the demand for and supply of the renewable energy. The Government of Tamil Nadu have taken steps to encourage the farmers, particularly those in possession of marginal and sub-marginal lands, in which lucrative agricultural operations are not possible, to adopt agro-silvicultural practices with bank assistance We are also in touch with certain organisations having research facilities for conducting experiments in pyrolysis, gasification and liquefaction of fuel-wood.

Ex-Estate and Zamin forests have been taken over and settlement work to constitute them into reserved forests, is being carried out by 18 parties. So far, 1,100 sq. kms. have been declared as Reserved Forests and 3,240 sq. kms. are in the process of settlement. Large viable blocks of unreserved land have been taken up for afforestation.

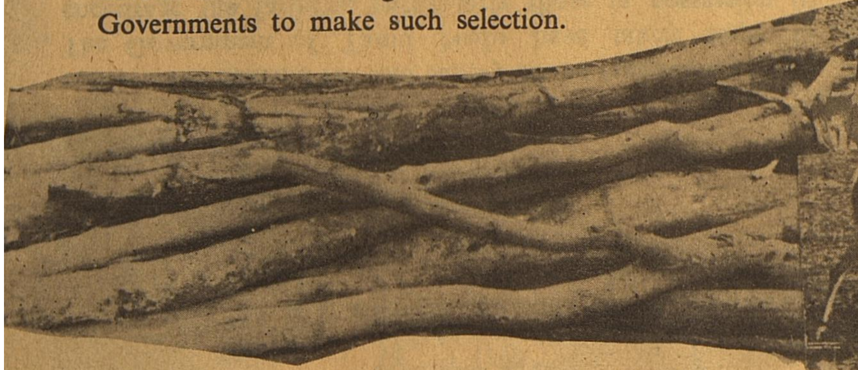
For maximising the sustained yield of forest products, plantations of sandalwood and other timber species have been undertaken. So far, industrial plantations of wattle, pulpwood and softwood have been raised over 1,10,425 hectares. The continuing ban on the export of sandalwood is having a crippling effect on the forest budget of our State. Our repeated requests to the Central Government in this regard have not evoked a favourable response despite our assusrance and proving that the indigenous availability would not suffer on account of exports. I would once again like to make a fervent plea for lifting of the ban on export of sandalwood as has recently been done in the case of Red Sanders. With the final object of eliminating middlemen and facilitate export of value added product, it has been decided to set up sandalwood oil distillation plant of 400 tonnes capacity.

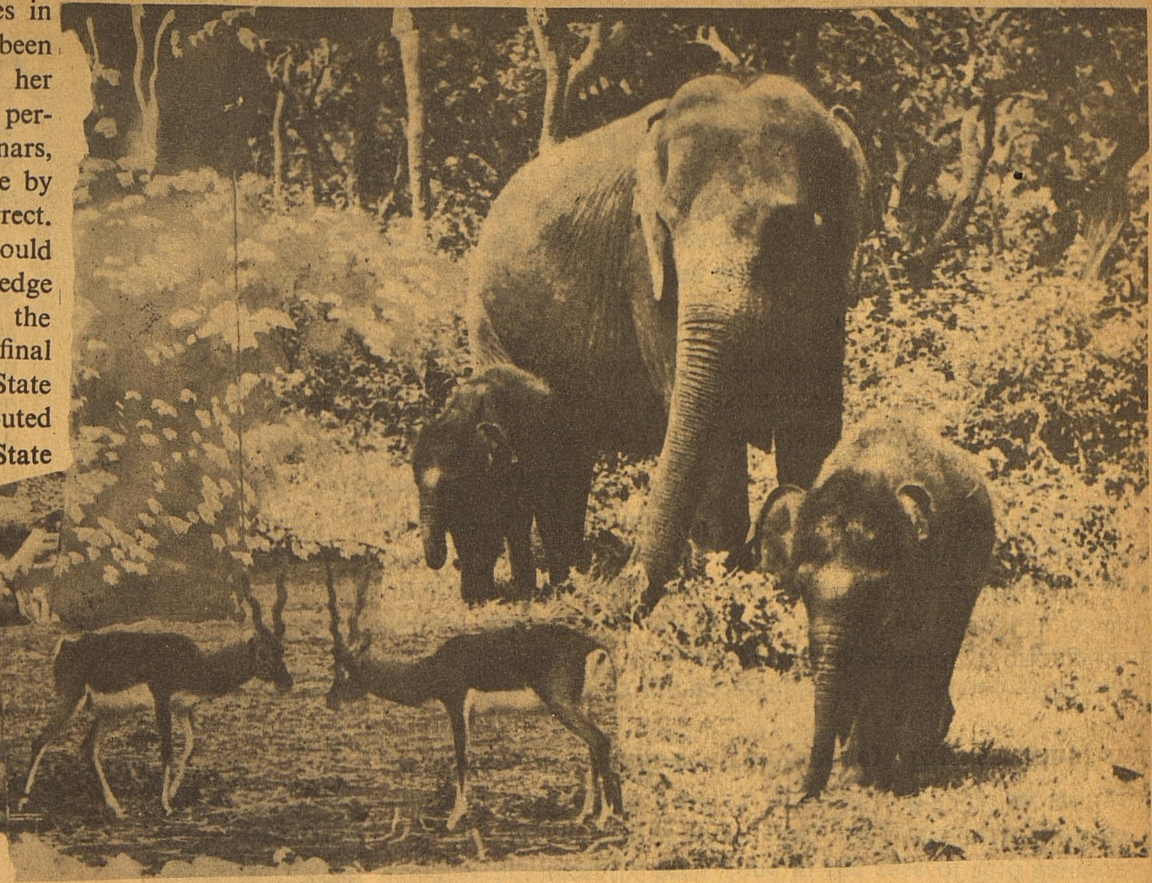
To improve the production and marketing of Minor Forest Produces, a Committee of officials from Planning, Finance and Forest Departments of the State has been appointed. Increase in the producing of Minor Forest Produce not only augments the State revenues, but also improves the economic conditions of the tribals who are aided in collection and marketing through LAMP Societies, entitled to concessional rates and priority of allotment by the Forest Department. The Committee will also examine the possibilities of producing finished products instead of selling raw materials.

To keep pace with modern developments in forestry sciences, the research Organisation has been split into two wings, each under a Conservator of Forests, to deal with general forestry research and Social Forestry research. Work on tissue culture and cloning has been taken up in collaboration with the National Physical Laboratory at Pune.

In this connection, I would like to stress a point. It is an accepted fact that there should be a constant flow of

knowledge between our country and developed countries in the field of forestry and other sciences. This has also been pointed out by our Honourable Prime Minister during her recent visit to the U. S. A. In the matter of sending of personnel abroad for training and participation in Seminars, the present practice is for the final selection to be made by the Central Government. I feel that this is not correct. The State Governments are the best judge of who would benefit most by such visits and disseminate the knowledge and experience gained on their return. I suggest that the present practice of the Central Government making the final selection of personnel going abroad or suggesting to the State Governments the names of personnel who should be deputed abroad should be changed and it should be left to the State Governments to make such selection.





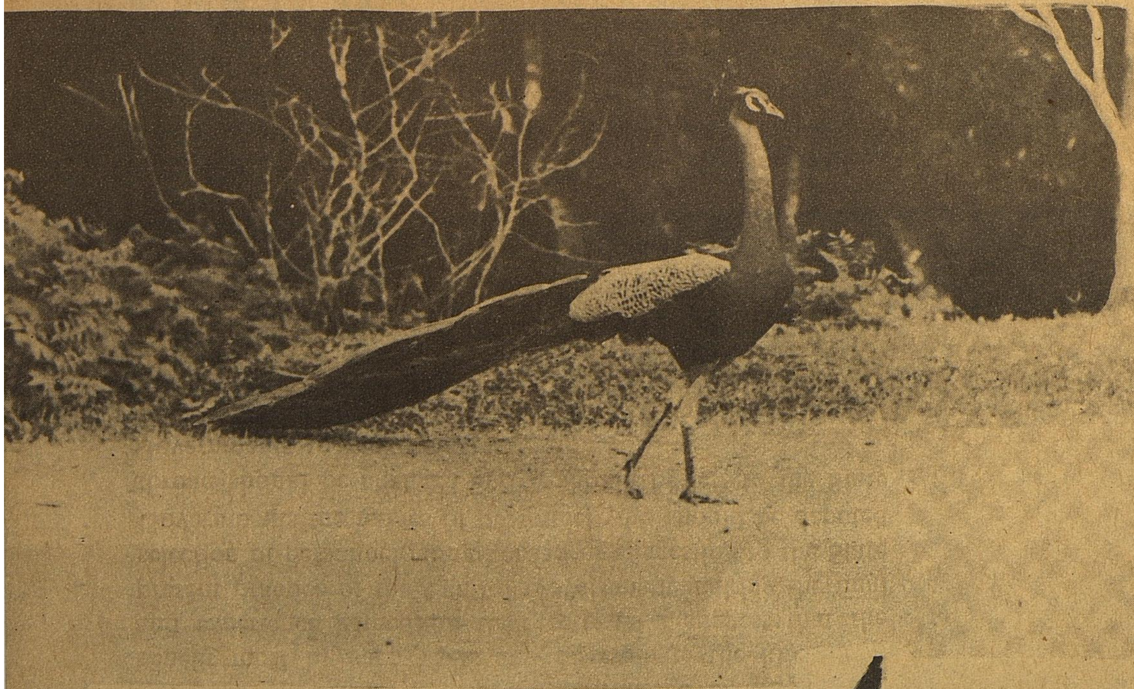
For more effective control and supervision, the Tamil Nadu Forest Department has been reorganised by increasing the number of Circles, Divisions and Ranges and reducing the area of control of individual Officers. A separate Social Forestry wing under an Additional Chief Conservator of Forests, 5 Conservators of Forests and 29 Divisions has been formed assisted by Evaluation, Monitoring and Training staff. At the lowest level, 5,000 village Social Forestry Workers from the villages concerned are being appointed for motivation and extension work.

The Wildlife Wing is now headed by an Additional Chief Conservator of Forests and Divisions with predominance of wildlife are manned by Wildlife Wardens. Thus, overlapping jurisdictions have been eliminated and wildlife given its due importance. This year 33,000 Olive Ridley Turtle eggs were collected, hatched and the young ones released into the sea. Crocodile breeding and management have been intensified in four centres in the State. An F. A. O pilot project for this has been cleared for implementation in our State. I am happy to inform the Board that we will shortly be organising an All India Wildlife Exhibition in

Madras during the Wildlife Week. A permanent Wildlife Museum is also proposed to be set up.

Our Government have agreed to set up a Biosphere Reserve in the Nilgiris District over an area of 1190 sq. kms. The details are to be worked out.

In order to strengthen the National Forest Policy, I have the following suggestions to make for the consideration of the Central Board of Forestry :—



To create a separate Department of Forestry and and Environment at the Centre manned by Forest Officers and Environmental experts.

To make the Forest Service a fully uniformed service as it has legal powers to enforce at all levels.

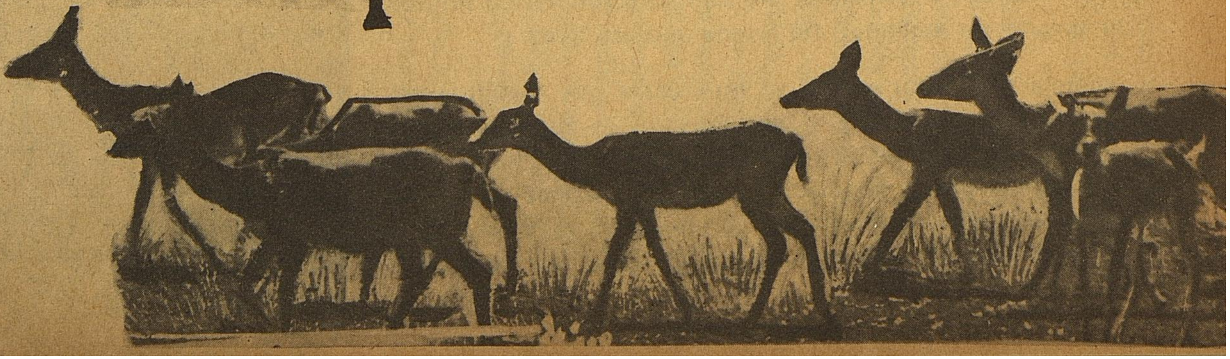
Forest Legislation

Our Government have already sent their comments on the proposed Indian Forest Act. I suggest that 'Wattle Bark' also be included under Forest produce, since it is found in abundance in Tamil Nadu and effectively harnessed. The list of 'Scheduled Timbers' should be made more exhaustive. More stringent punishment for the theft of sandalwood is necessary. While Tamil Nadu has an effective statutory framework to prevent the theft and illegal possession of sandalwood, our efforts will bear fruit only if the neighbouring States also adopt similar legislation. I am sure that the special interests of each State will be covered in the new Act after discussion by the Board.

Working plan unit-central agency for scrutiny and monitoring

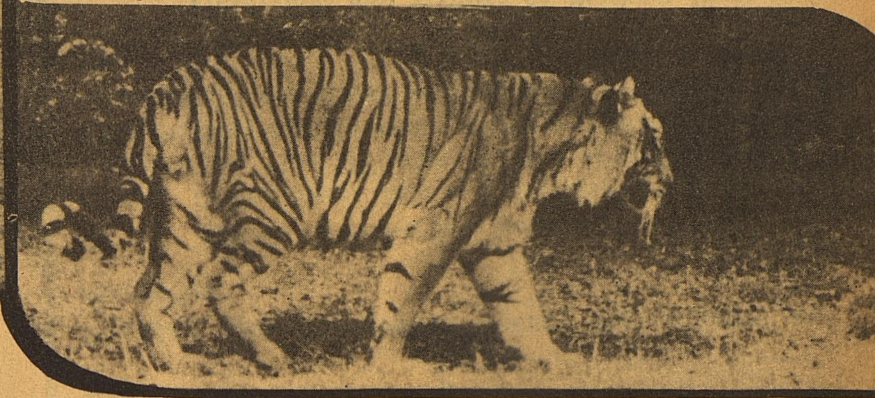
Almost All States have got separate Working Plan Circles. In our State, there is a Working Plan Circle with four Working Plan Divisions. It is proposed to have two more Working Plan Divisions at one per each Circle as also to extend the concept of working plans to Social Forestry also.

Preparation and revision of Working Plans have been undertaken for the past many decades by trained Forest Officers. In our State, the preliminary reconnaissance report



is considered by a Committee headed by the Chief Conservator of Forests and consisting of the Working Plan Conservator of Forests, Territorial Conservator of Forests concerned, District Forest Officer, Working Plan Officer, Conservator of Forests (Research) and Officers who have held charge of the Divisions in the recent past. The draft chapters are scrutinised jointly by the Conservator of Forests, Working Plan and Territorial Conservator of Forests before they are finalised. The Working Plan is approved by the Chief Conservator of Forests. Apart from the practical difficulty of having a large number of Working Plans being scrutinised and approved by a Committee at the Centre, there appears to be no need for such a move since the State Governments have enough expertise and experience to do this job and are better suited for it in view of their intimate knowledge of local conditions and needs of the people. Any move to divest the State Forest Departments of this important function will be counterproductive. The Government of Tamil Nadu, therefore, strongly opposes the proposal to centralise the approval and monitoring of working plans. I am sure that all State Governments will agree with us in this important matter.

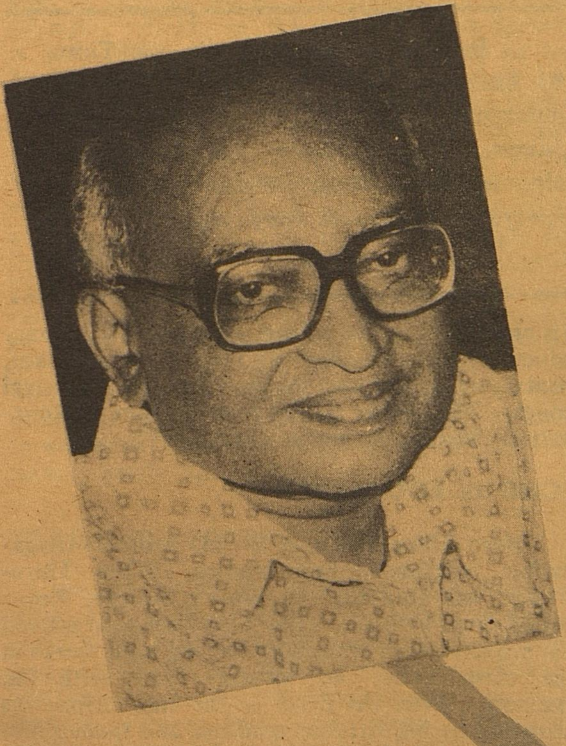
I have set out above my thoughts on certain important points which require our immediate attention. While naturalists and futurologists have been warning the society against the depredation of Forests ever since the time of Plato, it is only now that public awakening and concern are noticed. It is for us, the policy makers, to harness this cons-



tructive sentiment towards specific, purposeful, well-directed and effectively co-ordinated courses of action.

(Speech delivered by Thiru R. M. Veerappan, Minister for Information, Religious Endowments [illegible] Government of Tamil Nadu at the Special Meeting of the Central Board of Forestry on 7th August, 1982 at New Delhi.)

An Ever Replenishing Scheme



I am sure that the remarkable inaugural event of the Free nutritious noon meal programme to redress the sad plight of the poor children living in distress will constitute a milestone in the history of Tamil Nadu. We have read in the epic of Manimekalai, that Manimekalai fed hungry people with her ever replenishing utensil. We also heard about Vadalur Ramalinga Swamigal who lit the fire for feeding the needy poor all round the year. Our great leader Thiru Kamaraj paved the way for the massive enrollment of children in primary schools by introducing mid day meals scheme. Now the Rs. 100 Crore noon day nutritious meals programme has been intitiated not just to appease the hunger of the children but to build the character of the children in all possible ways. This will help combat social evils like caste and other divisive institution. We are really proud that our Honourable Chief Minister has inaugurated this scheme of such magnitude.

I appeal to the elders who have come here in large numbers, to think of the feeding centres in your localities whenever a special occasion of importance occurs in your family. On such occasions of rejoining you may provide one time free meal to the poor children and thus celebrate the day with your family members. This is not a politically motivated scheme. It is aimed at to evolve an egalitarian social set up. Only with the co-operation and participation of the public this stupendous project will be successful. I request the staff members and teachers who are responsible for implementing this scheme to work hard with devotion and sincerity for the success of this welfare scheme.

[*Extract from the speech of* ***Thiru K. Diraviam,*** *Chief Secretary to the Government at Papakkurichi near Thiruchirapalli on* **30-6-82.**]

4th Cover

The Chief Minister, Thiru **M. G. Ramachandran** garlanding the statue of Kamaraj, on Kamaraj s 80th birth anniversary celebrations.

TAMIL THENRAL Thiru. Vi. KA

DR. A. NAGALINGAM, M.A., Ph.D.,

In view of the centenary of Thiru. Vi. Ka. which falls on 26-8-1982, we are publishing an article on this great Tamil Savant. In his honour the Government also instituted literary award and a cash reward of Rs. 10,000 every year.

—Editor

Many people strived for the development of Tamil language and literature in Tamil Nadu. One among them was Tiruvarur Vruthachala Kalyanasundaram popularly known as Thiru.Vi.Ka. In this article we shall look into his life and achievements during the first half of this century. It is apt to quote Dr. M. Varadarajan's words (Former Vice Chancellor of Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai who was a contemporary of Thiru. Vi. ka.) here :

"Thiru.Vi.Ka toiled without any rest and wrote for human uplift night and day. He covered every nook and corner of the country with his speeches. He presided over so many conferences. He invited whoever met him and took keen interest in them. He remembered them through out. With his innate affection and fondness he drew masses towards him. He spent his valuable time for the uplift of each and every one and also for all institutions. He never misused his influeence on others for his own benefit. But he lost on so many occasions for the uplift of others. He suffered to bring happiness for others. He strived incessantly for the sake of others and never for his own."

CHILDHOOD

Thiru. Vi. Ka. was born on 26th August, 1883 at Tullam a small village in Saidapet Taluk, Chengalput District. He was the sixth child among the eight to his father through his second wife. His parents were Vruthachala Mudaliar and Chinnammal. Till his seventh year, he spent his childhood in the village. He had his primary education from his father who was a rice merchant, contractor, grocer and also a composer of musical songs. The family shifted from Tullam to Royapettah, Madras to better their livelihood.

SCHOOL EDUCATION

Here Thiru.Vi.Ka. and his brother Ulaganathar continued their studies. When Thiru-Vi.Ka. was studying in Wesley College, Royapettah from IV class, Ist to VIth forms, he proved his proficiency in studies by scoring high marks in the class. Also, he moved closely with the teachers. Even the head of the Institution was attracted by his virtuous qualities and treated him affectionately. He acquired greater knowledge and virtues by his association with his masters. Thiru. Vi. Ka's school education was bright and his relationship with the teachers good and smooth till he developed close contact with Thiru Pillai. After the arrival of Thiru Pillai, Thiru. Vi. Ka's interest in studies decreased. It increased his love for mother tongue and developed his search for spirituality.

Though, he lost interest in school education he never failed to harbour in him a deep sense of spirit to improve his knowledge on various fields. With the able guidance of his Tamil Tutor particularly, he wandered here and there to know the teachings of other religions. In the human life whenever a man achieved greatness suddenly or later he has to face a fall. It is human nature. Here Thiru.vi.ka. also had a fall in his life.

Studies under various experts : Now Thiru. Vi.Ka. was invited by Maha Vidwan Thanikachala Mudaliar of Mylapore a Saivite scholar to pursue his studies under him. Thiru. Vi. Ka. learnt the Sastras of Saivism namely Thiru Arutpayan, Sivagnana Siddhi (External) Sivaprakasam and Sivagnana Bodham. If one studies Sivaprakasam under his able guidance all Sastras of Saivism could be understood.

After his study under Mudaliar, he got acquainted with eminent persons like Maraimalai Adigal Swamy, Pamban, Tirukkural Kuppuswami Mudaliar and Pandit Swaminatha of Jaffna etc. These scholars on knowing the talents of Thiru. Vi. ka. treated him as their colleague. This acquaintance further profited him intellectually. He thus became popular during his time and earned name and fame. Years passed. One of his step-brothers Thiru. Raju Mudaliar compelled him to study Book-Keeping and so he finished that course also.

His Career : Thiru.Vi.Ka. searched for job. One or two places he attempted but failed to get a job. Finally in 1907 he got a job in Spencer & Co., Madras as a catagloguer. Here he led his life happily reading patriotic magazines and hearing speeches of well-known leaders of Indian National Congress. Inspired by Arobindo's Bande Matharam (a newspaper in English). Thiru. Vi.Ka. used to read this paper and explained to the co-workers what was happening in the country and the activities of the leaders who fought for freedom of India. On knowing the activities of Thiru. Vi. Ka. the Managing Director of the company, warned him, Thiru.Vi.Ka. was wounded by this and with the consultation of his brother he resigned the job and left the company. The Manager of the company not expecting this type of attitude from Thiru.Vi.Ka. tried to tempt him to withdraw his resignation but failed. Here he served nearly for a year.

TEACHING PROFESSION

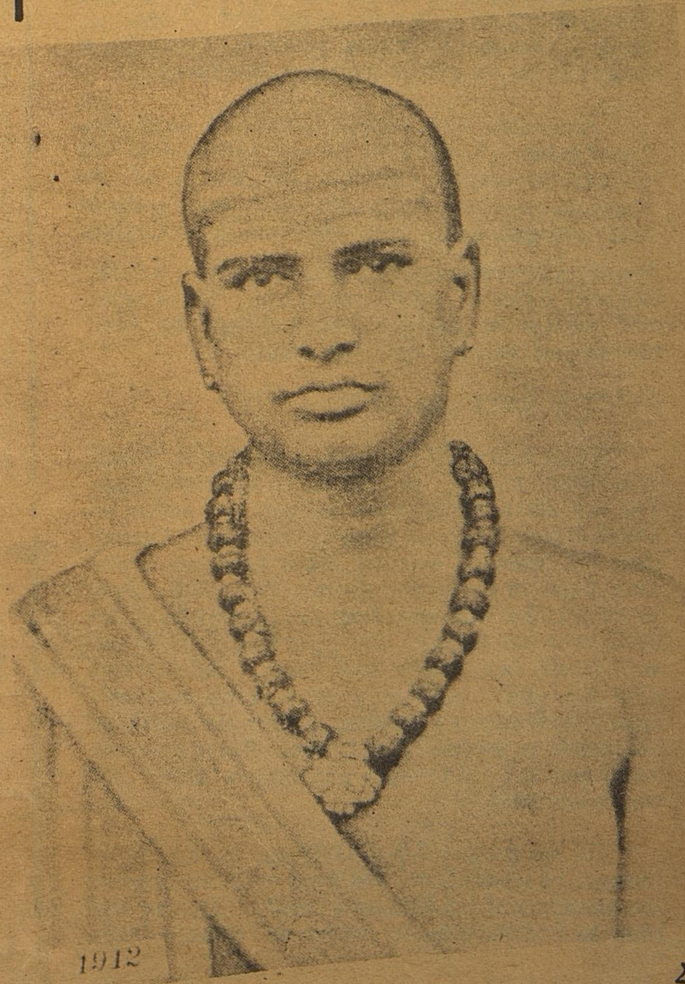
To Thiru. Vi. Ka. brothers and a friend of them met and decided to start a printing press to publish religious books. Accordingly they printed and published a few books such as Peria Purana and Tirumanthiram, but closed it after two years because of heavy loss. To meet the excess expense, the press and the jewels of his mother were sold out. Even then it was not possible for the brothers to meet both ends. So another friend of Thiru.Vi.Ka. accompanied him and the two met Thiru. John Rathnam Pillai, who was the headmaster of an elementary school in Thousand-lights, Madras for a job in the beginning of 1910, Thiru. Pillai after knowing their position and talents, appointed them in his school as teachers. This is the first school where Thiru.Vi.ka. had started his career as a teacher. Here he served for six years and earned popularity. At that time he came in close contact with the teachings of Christianity and Islam. In 1912 he married Kamalambigai and led a happy life.

In 1916 this school was closed. So with the great help of Thiru. John Rathnam Pillai and his friends Thiru.Vi.Ka. took up Wesley College in June 1916 as professor in Tamil. Here he served for one and half years. By his extensive knowledge and talents he tried to increase the standards of the students and teachers. He succeeded in his attempts.

Editorship : During these years he had Patriotic feelings. He was acquainted with Justice Sadasiva Iyer, Judge, High Court, Madras a close follower of Dr. Annie Besant of Theosophical Society and others. With the co-operation and friendship of these noble and Patriotic leaders Thiru.Vi.Ka. became enthusiastic and very active, with the advice and help of his friends he resigned the professorship (5-12-1917) and joined as an Editor of a Tamil daily Desabaktan in 7-12-1917.

When Thiru. Vi. Ka. became the editor of Desabaktan he worked with great eager and vigour. Fully equipped with the talents of an editor he dealt with the matters like freedom movement, emancipation of Women, labour movement, uplift of the Tamil language and literature etc. stubbornly, straight forwardly and broad-mindedly. Being a talented language teacher he used simple language, thought provoking and emotional. This won for him coveted admirations from among the Tamilians and others who were petrified by his clarity of speech and writings.

The people of various parts of Tamil Nadu came to know Thiru. Vi. Ka's existance from Desabaktan. They gave suggestions to him either



1912

to start a newspaper under a limited company on behalf of the non-Brahmins or to supervise a women's college at Karaikudi. He did not reject the later. But some of his friends wanted to keep Thiru. Vi. Ka. in Madras, in order to strengthen the labour movement. So, in a meeting of the labourers they analysed Thiru.Vi.Ka's position and finally decided that those who are willing to assist Thiru. Vi. Ka. shall contribute rupee one each. The fund was collected and some of his other friends too collected nearly rupees 2,000 and these were contributed to Thiru.Vi.Ka. With this amount a printing Press was bought. He named it as Sadhu Press. Through the Press a Weekly paper by name Navasakti was published.

The first issue came on 22nd October 1922. From that day onwards for nearly 20 years it was read eagerly by the people of Tamilnadu.

During his editorship of this weekly he changed it as biweekly, triweekly and later monthly according to the circumstances that the nation needed. As an editor he dealt in his paper the Tamil language and literature, the welfare of Tamil scholars, the development of the Indian National Congress etc., He spread the message of freedom movement as voiced by Dr. Annie Besant, Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi.

Thiru. Vi. Ka. spent his whole time for the development of Navasakti, when political thoughts were burning in the nation. Very often in that Greeper (Navasakti) Social reformation, Welfare of women, special features of Tamil language, development of arts were flourished. Finally in most of the issues consider petals of Navasakti a fragrance of socialistic satmarya emanated.

Navasakti also earned name and fame like Desabaktan. Serving in various fields including politics Navasakti attracted the leaders of the opposite parties. Navasakti had her laudable and majestic entry into all world like Ceylon, Burma, Siam, Malaya, Mouricious, South Africa, England, France, and Germany etc. Those reverent fathers of Europe who returned to their motherland never forgot Navasakti.

FAMILY BACKGROUND

When Thiru. Vi.Ka. was a teacher in Thousandlights school, he married Kamalambigai. Till her death (1918 when he was the editor of Desabaktan) he lived happily with her. During their six years of married life a boy and a girl were born to them but shortly they died. Few years later his wife also died due to Asthma. He lived with her happily like fruit and taste, flower and smell, instrument and music. Before and after his wife's death he lived with his brother's family including his mother. After the death of his spouse he avoided remarriage. Many relatives and others tried him to get married but failed. He was adament.

Till his death (17-9-1953)Thiru. Vi. Ka. never thought of separation. He lived with one among the members of his brother's family. During day time he had no time to write or think calmly,

so he had chosen night for his literary work.

PUBLIC LIFE

Clealiness : Outwardly and inwardly: in writings and thoughts, in his dress as well as in his words : in his duties as well as in his path.

Simplicity : To approach as well as to invite. To receive help : to point out the mistakes of others as well as to tell the evil in others.

Equanimity : He followed foot steps of Mahatma Gandhi in the political fields and Karl Marx in the economic field, Ramalinga Swamigal to understand and respect all religions of the world to strive for the oneness among all religions and Tiruvalluvar for his everlasting guiding principles of humanity.

LABOUR MOVEMENT

When he was working as a cataloguer in the Spencer & Co., Madras, he came into contact with Keir Hardy, a Parliamentarian and the leader of the Labour Party of England. Come to know Thiru Hardy personally and having read his biographical sketch in the newspaper subsequently, Thiru Vi.Ka. took great interest in the labour movement. His fluency in Tamil and his involvement in their activities earned good name among the labourers. So, these eminent people like G. Selvapathy chetty, Dewan Bahadur P. Kesava Pillai, B. P. Wadia and others who were the Pioneers of the labour movement in South, tried to drag him into the movement. With the association of these great persons, Thiru. Vi. Ka.

got himself involved in the field of labour movement. He advocated labourers belonging to various concern and factories to mobilise organisations and form associations. During his experience of thirty years in the field of labour movement he became president twice and held the post for eleven years. With these experiences he tried to develop the conditions of the workers. Being an editor of daily and weekly magazines he explained to the Public the problems of labourers. Thus in his life-time he spent more time to the labour movement than anything else. He impressed upon the labourers to such an extent that considered him one among them.

WOMEN'S WORLD

From his childhood onwards Thiru. Vi. Ka. respected the ladies. In his school career his teacher's wives took great interest in him and taught Tamil grammar and geography. In his later life, he came into contact with the great ladies of various walks of life like Dr. Annie Besant, Ramamirtham of Moovalur, Pandit Asalambikai, Pandit Krishnaveni and others. He moved with them affectionately like a disciple, a co-worker, a son and a father respectively. This attitude attracted the attention of the womenfolk.

He was fortunate enough to have close contact with Dr. Annie Besant an eminent theosophist through the able guidance of his friend Justice Sadasiva Iyer. He had the benefit of moving with Dr. Annie Besant, the leader of Theosophical society. To his political career Dr. Besant caused a turning point in his life. She was the sole root of Thiru. Vi. Ka's entrance into politics, editor of newspapers and finding universal brotherhood among the religions, etc.

Thiru. Vi. Ka. wrote a famous book on women, by name *The Glory of women or the life partner*. In it he dealt in detail the different stages of female life. In this concepts, he established the superiority of women in the society. If anyone could notice Thiru. Vi. Ka's way of approach to the womanhood he could definitely appreciate and accept his ideas.

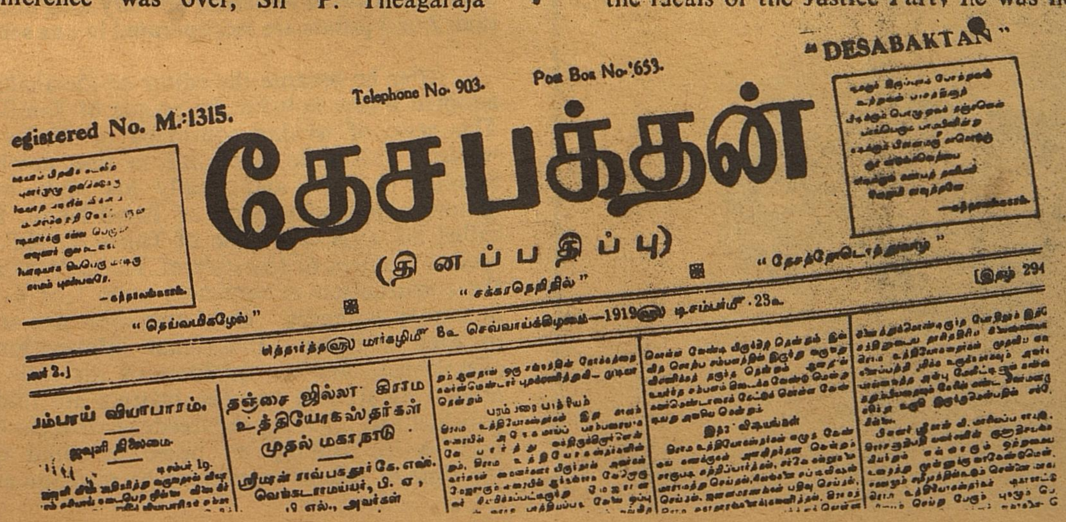
Political : In 1916 the conference of the Saiva Siddhanta Maha Samajam was held in Madras. On the evening of the third day after the conference was over, Sir P. Theagaraja Chettiyar spoke on the improvement of the non-brahmins. In his speech Thiru Chettiyar narrated the influence of the Brahmins and the detoriation of the non-Brahmins. So, in order to uplift the non-Brahmins in the Society, it was necessary to form a party for them. It was not advisable to believe the Indian National Congress or the Home Rule Movement. There is no benefit for the non-Brahmins due to these two political organisations. Thiru.Vi.Ka. attended the meeting and heard his speech. He being congress minded and attached to Dr. Besant, wanted to deny the charges of chettiyar, refrained responding to the call of his sense of responsibility.

At the same time the then Government arrested Dr. Besant, the leader of the Home Rule Movement. Being a close follower of Dr. Besant, the arrest of his leader created in him an interest to enter into politics. But some of his friends and the Head of his Institution were opposed to that view. While Dr. Besant was under custody, the Justice Party became popular. Meetings were held in Madras to condemn its principles.

As one of the secretaries of the AMP, Thiru. Vi. Ka. stressed the importance and the improvement of the native language namely Tamil. Several resolutions were passed in the conference. The most important one was that the speakers should speak in Tamil. When this idea was placed before the conference in the form of a resolution Thiru. Vi. Ka whole heartedly supported it and strongly stressed the need for it. He also supported this point of view by writing articles in his paper. His speeches and writings influenced the great speakers of English to convert themselves as Tamil Speakers. This is the first resolution held in Thiru. Vi. Ka's life. Even the congress of Tamilnadu transacted its business activities only in Tamil.

After a few years the AMP disappeared. Being a staunch supporter of the National Congress movement, Thiru. Vi. Ka. spread his ideals through his papers Desabaktan and Navasakti. In the corporation and the Assembly elections of 1924, 1925, 1926 Thiru. Vi. Ka worked vigorously for the congress.

In the beginning of his activities in the congress, Thiru. Vi. Ka's aim was to oppose the ideals of the Justice Party. Though he was against the ideals of the Justice Party he was not against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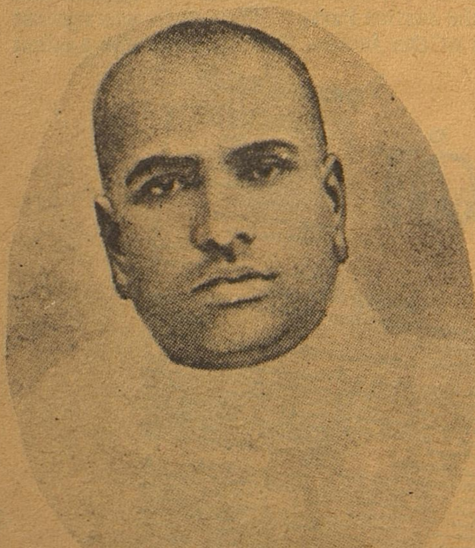
its leaders stalwarts like Sir. P. Theagaraja Chettiar. Raja of Panagal, Dr. Natesa Mudaliar. He differed in his views but moved with them in a friendly manner.

Under the leadership of Dr. Besant, Tilak and Mahatma Gandhi the Indian National Congress had its various activities simaltaneously under these leaders. Thiru. vi. Ka. worked for the freedom of India. As an editor of Desabaktan and Navasakti he wrote editorials and articles supporting these three leaders, he spread their political doctrines effectively among the people of Tamilnadu. To Achieve the freedom of India, Desabaktan and Navasakti played an important role among the newspapers in Tamil nadu.

In the year 1925 Thiru. Vi.Ka. presided over the Congress of Tamilnadu at Kancheepuram. This was an important event in the history of the congress of Tamilnadu. In the conference Thiru. E.V.R. and Thiru. Ramanathan proposed two resolutions. Thiru. Vi. Ka. as the president of the conference rejected them because the first resolution was already rejected in the executive meeting : further the two resolutions were totally contradictory to the conference. E.V.R. ignored this and opposed the president. As the president Thiru. Vi. Ka. had the responsibility to explain, the reason for rejecting the resolutions. The congress gave power to the Swarajya Party to look after the Assembly elections. Given this power it was the duty of the Swarajya Party to look after the reservation of constituencies. It was more appropriate to discuss this matter in the meeting of the Swarajya Party. So, under these circumstances, Thiru. Vi. Ka. rejected the resolutions. Thiru. Vi. Ka's answer had not satisfied E. V. R. and his friends. So they made a walkout. From that day onwards the two great leaders of Tamilnadu namely Thiru Vi. Ka. and E.V.R. worked as opponents on two sides for the rest of their life.

As a congress minded person Thiru. Vi. Ka. acted as a true follower of congress movement till his death. Whenever the congress wanted his service he readily accepted and did his duty without any reservations. He respected the movement.



1924

1918

Till his 63rd year Thiru. Vi. Ka. worked in various fields with heart and soul. Whatever field he entered, he tried to improve it. This attitude earned Thiru. Vi. Ka. an important place in the hearts of the Tamilians. Every field of men should say that he belongs to his field. That is why he is rembered everywhere in Tamilnadu.

As a Prose Writer : Thiru. Vi.Ka. wrote 56 books. Out of this more than 35 books are in prose. As an effective speaker and writer he wrote on several subjects. In the beginning he spent his time in writing pampnlets, condemning other religion except saivism. His first work was a life history of N. Kadiraivel pillai of Jaffna. In this book Thiru. Vi. Ka. adopted the style of Somesundara Nayagar and Sabhapathy Navalar. We found in the book the alliteration and the beauty of the construction of the sentences etc. The formation of sentences are very long and more than 2 or 3 points are incorporated in one sentence.

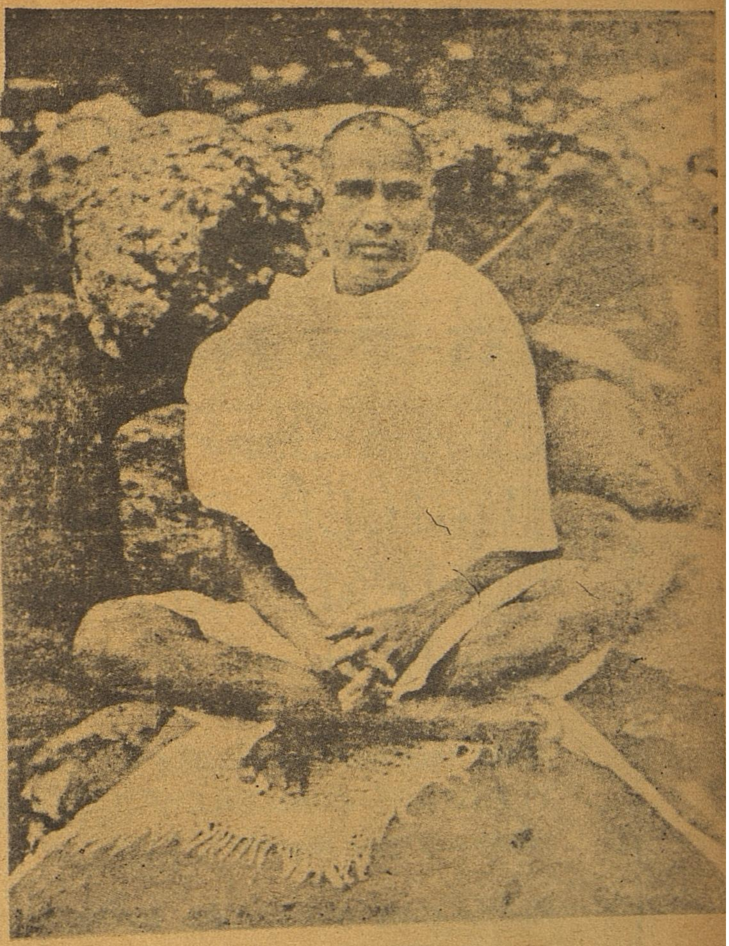
After he became the editor of Desabaktan he adopted a new style for the people of TamilNadu. This style of writing continued in all his other works. This style from line to line slowly and steadily changed and finally his style became famous among the people of Tamil Nadu. People called his style 'The style of Thiru. Vi. Ka'. The special features of the style of Thiru. Vi. Ka. was the construction of sentences with 3 or 4 words in simple sentences. Only one point was stressed in each sentence. Emotional information and effectiveness are the qualities of his style. The other was even in obscene matters are told in a polished way. During the freedom struggle he too part in it. Having no peace of mind during the time of labour movement he read the ancient

literature. His writings in Prose spread not only in literature but also in politics, society, labour movement, religions, spiritual and modern thoughts.

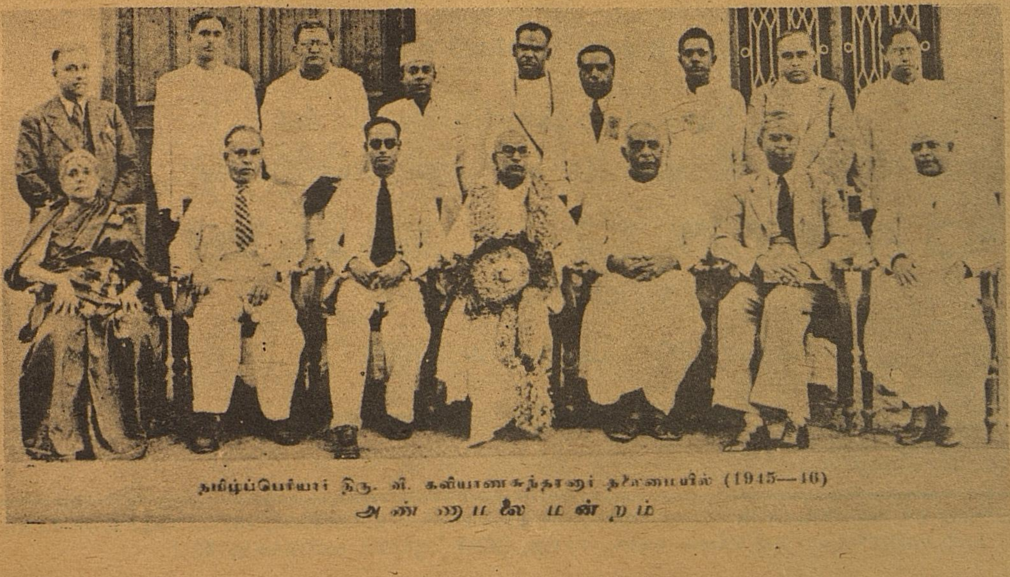
As a close follower of Mahatma Gandhi and at the same time a vigorous worker and a leader of labour movement, he spread the ideals of Gandhi and Karl Marx. He not only read the age old books of the world but took great interest towards modern books. Particularly Gandhism and Marxism. He studied them deeply. He found little difference between them. He thought that their principles will be useful to Indian circumstances.

His Style: Thiru. Vi.Ka. studied with intense interest in Tamil literature as well as English. In English he studied the works of all poets like Milton, Shakespeare, Wordsworth, Keats, Shelley, Karl Marx and Leo Tolstoy, Blavatzky, Annie Besant and Bernard Shah. Being a great thinker Thiru. Vi.Ka. analysed all that he read and heard including the style and formed his own. The Growth in his style is astonished. The conflict in the style of writing of authors should be avoided.

Last days : Though he worked hard without caring for his health and facilities at the age of 66 he became blind and he was confined in his house for the rest of his life. He and his brothers lived in a rented house. The house owner had the fear in mind that the Government should take over his house and give to Thiru. Vi. Ka. So, the owner requested Thiru. Vi. Ka. to vacate the house in his last days. Alreadv his brother died.



There is no one to take care of him with real affection. Only his brother's daughters and their husbands and their children were with him. He was content in the simple way of life. Till his death Thiru. M.Narayanaswamy (died in November 1981) the Manager of Sadhu Press helped him in writing out the dictations made by Thiru. Vi.Ka. and published them. The work of Thiru. Vi.Ka. will be hailed in future. His principles will be appreciated and followed. On 17th September 1953 he died after prolonged illness at his residence at Royapettah, leaving behind him no high ambitions, because all that for which he laboured were fulfilled.



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